



Thursday, November 12, 2015

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HAVE A SAY ON COUNCIL BUDGET

Report by Lee Watton

THOUSANDS of people are to have their say on Dudley Council's controversial budget plans.

The move comes as the authority looks to make £20 million worth of cuts over the next three years.

Under the proposals Dudley Museum and Art Gallery would close and up to 275 jobs would be axed. Library opening hours could be cut with public toilets, dog bins and gritting lorries also in the firing line.

Proposals also include a council tax increase of just under two per cent, the equivalent of 43p a week for a band D property.

Bosses say the authority is facing unprecedented cuts in funding from the Government and needs to dramatically change the way it delivers services.

The council has now launched its annual The Big Question consultation, asking residents for their views on the proposed budget.

More than 6,000 residents took part last year and more are expected to do so this time around. It will run for 12 weeks until January 31. Residents will be able to take part through the council's website at www.dudley.gov.uk or by using #DudleyBudget on Twitter. People can also pick up hard copy versions from borough libraries and Dudley Council Plus in Castle Street, Dudley.

Innovative

Cabinet member for finance, Councillor David Sparks, said: "Over the past two years, the number of people who have taken part in our Big Question consultations has been bigger than any other budget consultation ever held by Dudley Council."

"These are unprecedented times for any local authority as our funding continues to be reduced from the Government, and we have to look at new and innovative ways of delivering services. This year's Big Question is very much about finding out what services people think can be delivered in another form, by the community and voluntary sector."

Councillor Sparks said the savings are needed in response to a £65m reduction in Government funding since 2010.

For 2015/16 Dudley's Revenue Support Grant, its main source of Government funding, reduced by £61 per person.

At a recent meeting, the council's controlling Labour group came under fire over the cuts. Conservative leader, Councillor Patrick Harley, suggested the authority should have been better prepared. He said: "Austerity isn't new. It's been here for the last six or so years. Yet here we are with another budget and more services cut or stopped altogether."

But leader of Dudley Council Councillor Pete Lowe said: "We have seen significant cuts in Dudley, over and above that of elsewhere. We have seen cuts of £61 per person in Dudley compared to £18 in Windsor. How is that fair?"

POEM SET TO MUSIC IN PUPILS' POPPY DAY TRIBUTE



Wordsley School youngsters who took part in the musical tribute in memory of those who fell during two world wars and other conflicts with a song composed and performed for Remembrance Day — front, from left, Georgia Hadley, Lucy-Mae Hill, Oliver Preece, Isobel Rothin, Alicia Biggs, Tyla Challenger, Cameron Parkes, Dominic Ridge and Tom Rhodes

SCHOOL children used their musical talents to create a moving tribute to those who lost their lives fighting for their country.

Year 11 students Dominic Ridge, Cameron Parkes and Tom Rhodes, all 15 from The Wordsley School, joined forces with music students to turn their poem into a powerful song entitled The Red Reaches. It is a homage to the poppy and the painful memories it represents.

Andrew Fisher, head of music, helped the pupils set the poem to music. He said: "Every year we have an assembly with a live music performance for Remembrance Day, but this year we wanted to do something different."

"Three of the Year 11 lads came up with a moving poem during the school holidays and we decided to set it to music. The haunting chorus line in the poem lent itself beautifully into our song's motif and refrain."

Music was added by school musicians from the Year 9 band with vocals by Lucy-Mae Hill, aged 13.

Mr Fisher spoke of his pride in the students. He said: "The song mainly focuses on World War One memories but we wanted to emphasise the loss and tragedy reflected in all wars, and the students did that with dignity."

The song is available to download from the school's www.wordsleyschool.co.uk website.

COURT

Mosque dispute cost will be nearly £1m

COSTS linked to the court battle over a proposed new mosque in Dudley, which seems to have finally reached an end after ten years, will total around £1 million.

Dudley Muslim Association's plans were dealt a major blow after judges ruled in favour of Dudley Council's bid to take back the land (see pages 3 and 6).

Association officials say they have already forked out more than £750,000 in legal and planning fees. Now they will have to cover the council's legal bill, thought to run into six figures. The Court of Appeal is yet to rule on the exact costs.

FA CUP

Glassboys handed home draw in cup

STOURBRIDGE will play Eastleigh FC at home in the second round of the FA Cup. The Glassboys beat Dover 2-1 at the weekend to book their place.

Boss Gary Hackett is hoping Stourbridge can produce 'one more special day' having already seen off Kidderminster Harriers and Dover Athletic.

The Glassboys have been handed National League Premier opponents, from two divisions higher, for the third time running.

● Sport — see page 40

TRANSPORT

Nuisance parkers hit with £100 fines

MORE than 500 fines have been handed to motorists parking badly at railway and metro stations in the Black Country.

Since January, 514 Penalty Charge Notices, each with a fine of £100, have been given out at Centro's six park and ride sites. Most of the fines — 230 in total — were issued at Stourbridge Junction.

But the numbers appear to be falling since an initial surge in January and February saw 114 drivers penalised.

At Sandwell and Dudley rail station 184 fines were handed out this year. There were also 31 at Rowley Regis and 20 at Coseley in the blitz on nuisance parking.

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BAND AIMING FOR THE TOP



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It's a roaring return for Jetpur the Lion



Jetpur is back at Dudley Zoo

LOOK who's the mane attraction at Dudley Zoo – Asiatic Lion Jetpur has made a roaring return to his birthplace.

The 12-year-old was born at the zoo in 2003 and has spent the past 10 years overseas – at Mulhouse Zoo in France. But now he's back in the Black Country and bosses are bursting with pride to have a male joining nine-year-old females Kyra and Asha. They hope they will settle well together and breed in time.

Jetpur, who weighs 223kg, arrived earlier this month.

Dudley Zoo curator, Richard Brown, said: "Jetpur is settling in well. We will be looking to get him into a routine and hope to introduce him to Kyra and Asha later in the week."

"We are quite positive they will get along well."

Cubs

Jetpur was born on July 6, 2003, and moved to Mulhouse Zoo, in Mulhouse, near Strasbourg on the German and Swiss borders, nearly two years later to form a breeding pair with lioness Sita.

They have had 10 cubs as part of an international breeding programme.

It is now hoped that Jetpur will continue to breed after his return home to the Castle Hill attraction.

Zoo section leader Jay Haywood said: "Lions eat every other day and Jetpur will have up to 10kg of meat every other day, given to him in joints.

"In between he is given rabbits, quail and chickens and it is also important he eats the bones, feathers and fur in order to keep his internal organs healthy."

BMet college closing two sites in bid to save money

A CASH-STRAPPED college which runs campuses in the Black Country is closing two sites, a Government review has revealed.

Birmingham Metropolitan College's perilous financial state was highlighted in a review by Further Education Commissioner Doctor David Collins, with the next few months deemed 'critical' to its chance of recovering.

The college – which has campuses in Stourbridge, Brierley Hill, Great Barr and Kidderminster – has closed its Language Centre in Highgate, Birmingham and sold a property in Castle Vale. It has not been suggested that any Black Country sites are under threat at this stage.

College bosses were commended for their efforts to resolve its financial problems.

"Until early 2015 the standard of financial management and control in the college was not acceptable," said Dr Collins. In a letter to college bosses, Skills and Equalities Minister Nick Boles wrote: "Although the college now has in place the expected policies and process in order to achieve quality and financial recovery, the next few months will be critical to determine whether or not financial recovery can be achieved."

Principal Andrew Cleaves said: "We are pleased that the FE Commissioner has recognised all the hard work that has been done over the past few months. Since spring we have significantly reduced expenditure and undertaken a successful voluntary severance programme."

Homes to be built at Guest hospital

WORK has started on the £18 million revamp of a landmark former hospital site in Dudley.

Developer Wates Living Space has begun to overhaul the Guest Hospital site in Tipton Road where 157 homes are to be built.

Construction is being carried out by Wates, alongside Dudley Council and the Homes and Communities Agency, with completion in summer 2019.

Two historic buildings from the hospital – the administration block and the porter's lodge – will be converted into housing as part of the project.

Other buildings will be demolished to make way for houses and flats.

A total of 118 homes will be sold while 39 will be available for rent through the council.

Power tools stolen from van in village

POWER tools were stolen from a vehicle parked in Hagley, near Stourbridge.

Thieves prised open the vehicle's back doors in Wassell Grove Lane and made off with the tools between 3pm and 3.45pm last Thursday. Call West Mercia Police on 101.

Cannon is back in pride of place



Engineers carefully haul the century-old cannon back into position by the war memorial at Brierley Hill

A LANDMARK cannon once again has pride of place in front of the war memorial in Brierley Hill after being restored to its former glory in time for Remembrance Day.

Judge John Wait told him: "All the indecent images you were storing were of children being abused for profit by vile people who spread them round the internet.

"The children grow up knowing these have been seen by hundreds of thousands, even millions of people. This has a profound psychological effect, quite apart from the suffering they go through.

"You were participating in this appalling trade of torturing children and making these images available for others."

in to lift it into place was not big enough. But a new machine arrived on site to carry out the work as planned.

Officials said some delicate work was needed with the crane to get it back in exactly the right position on its plinth. Restoration of the cannon cost between £2,000 and £3,000.

Dudley Council engineer Roger Brookes said: "Seeing the cannon restored to its proper place is a wonderful culmination of the pro-

ject for us. The cannon is a very important part of Brierley Hill's heritage and I know a lot of people in the town will be very glad to see it back in place.

"It was always the intention to have it back in position in time for Remembrance services and we have been able to achieve that.

The cannon was presented by Bailey Pegg to the town following the Siege of Mafeking, the most famous British action in the Second Boer War.

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Caparo boss dies in fall from luxury London flat

THE future of crisis-hit industrial giant Caparo faces further turmoil after its boss fell to his death from his London penthouse.

Angad Paul, aged 45, the son of Caparo founder Lord Paul of Marylebone, was found dead on Sunday at the rear of the exclusive apartment building in Portland Place he shared with his family.

Police say that his death is not being treated as suspicious.

Mr Paul was due to visit the Black Country last week but did not attend the scheduled meeting with administrators PwC and Walsall South MP Valerie Vaz at Caparo Atlas Fastenings site in Heath Road, Darlaston.

Father

His father, who has been chancellor of the University of Wolverhampton since 1999, had been due to visit Wolverhampton University today (Thu).

Mr Paul's death comes just two weeks after administrators were called into Caparo, the £370m-a-year business that employed 1,700 workers across the Black Country.

The move has already seen 323 jobs go across the region, with the likelihood of more to follow.

Mr Paul took over as chief executive of the firm in 1996.

Caparo went into administration last month, leading job losses as plants in Dudley, Cradley Heath, Oldbury, Darlaston and West Bromwich were hit.

Historian and all that jazz at church

HISTORIAN and raconteur John Sparry will be presenting an evening of jazz music at a church in Stourbridge.

Mr Sparry, who is a musician and Wall Heath bookshop owner, is holding the event at St James's Church, in Bridgnorth Road, Wollaston on Saturday. It will feature music interspersed with anecdotes from vibraphone player Mr Sparry. Playing alongside Mr Sparry will be Barry Watts on drums, Jim Sutton on bass and Henry Newman keyboards.

The concert is organised by the Stourbridge-based not-for-profit group Local & Live.

The concert starts at 7.30pm and tickets, priced £9, are available on the door. It's free for under-18s.

Howzat for cricket club's quiz night?

LYE Cricket Club is holding a quiz night in its pavilion off Stourbridge Road tomorrow (Fri) from 7.30pm. It is open to teams from club members and the public. To find out more visit the website www.lyecricketclub.co.uk



Rising star actor Kascion Franklin

Actor Kascion to turn on Christmas lights

A BLACK Country actor who played the starring role in Sir Lenny Henry's drama Danny and the Human Zoo will switch on Dudley's Christmas lights.

Kascion Franklin, from Wednesbury, has the honour of launching the annual festive celebration.

The 27-year-old played the lead role in the TV drama which was screened in August and received favourable reviews. Written by Sir Lenny, it was a fictionalised account drawing upon his early life as a teenager in Dudley.

Kascion said: "It's a real honour to be asked to switch on the lights. It's nice to give back to Dudley in my own little way, as it played a part in the first big thing in my career."

A brand new lighting system has been installed in the town centre as part of the multi-million pound market place redevelopment.

The switch-on takes place on Saturday at 5pm. Before that spectacular moment, there will be five hours of fun in Stone Street Square and Churchill Shopping Centre, including funfair rides, cookery demonstrations and a visit from Father Christmas.

Meanwhile, the cast of Danny and the Human Zoo have received a Movie Screen and TV Award (MSTA) for their work on the acclaimed drama. The one-off production won the award for best TV film.

It was filmed in the Black Country and based loosely around Sir Lenny's experiences growing up in Dudley and on the comedy circuit in the 1970s.

The Black Country actor, writer and comic, who last week won the Paving The Way honour at the Moba Awards, said he plans to 'tell more stories about the Midlands'.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Venue is to name bar after Tommy

BLACK Country comedian Tommy Munden will be honoured by having a room at an entertainment venue in Dudley named after him.

The bar at Dudley Town Hall is set to be renamed the Tommy Munden Lounge in honour of the Hale-sown-born funnyman, who died last year, and a portrait will be unveiled by Mayor of Dudley Councillor Steve Walther to commemorate the popular comic. Councillor Walther said: "Tommy Munden achieved legendary status and it is only right we honour him and his work."

Homes proposed for former garden

HOMES will be built by the transformation of an existing house and garden in Dudley under proposals before the council.

The property in Stourbridge Road will be partly demolished to create space for the new mini-estate.

KP Properties Developments has plans for the land near St Augustine's Church, at Holly Hall.

The existing house would be partly knocked down and re-designed as a three-bedroom property. Eight three-bedroom homes would be created in the garden under proposals.

Double the fun in vintage comedy

TWO classic 1930s comedies featuring Laurel & Hardy are being shown on the big screen in Dudley.

The Music Box, in which the hapless duo deliver a piano, and Block-Heads which finds Stan still fighting the First World War until Ollie rescues him, will be shown in high definition for the first time at the Showcase Cinema, Castlegate Way. The double feature will be shown at 2pm on Sunday and again at 7.30pm on Tuesday. See www.laurelandhardyroadshow.co.uk

'Allo 'Allo comedy revived by society

AN AMATEUR dramatics society founded nearly 70 years ago will be performing their own version of popular wartime set farce 'Allo 'Allo.

Envile Street Dramatic Society, which has 40 members, is based at Holy Trinity Church Hall on The Holloway. It has performed 127 shows since 1947.

Their play is based on the hit TV sitcom from the 1980s with its characters Rene, Edith and their friends and enemies and set in a small town cafe in German occupied France during the Second World War.

The society first performed 'Allo 'Allo in 2000, where chairwoman Wendy Hemming said it was the most successful play she has experienced in her 26 years of being involved in the society.

Now, 15 years later, they will be bringing the show back to the area tonight (Thu). Friday and Saturday at 7.30pm, with tickets priced at £7 for adults and £5 for concessions. To book tickets call (01384) 372930 or (01384) 376342 or go online to www.envilestreet-dramatic.org.uk/boxoffice.html



Envile Street Dramatic Society members, from left, Lee Morgan-Salcombe, Gaynor Wiltshire, Gaynor Whitehouse and Tom Dallaway

Carol singers needed for community event

DUDLEY Council for Voluntary Service is looking for musicians and singers to take part in a community carol singing event in Brierley Hill.

The singing in the town centre will follow the organisation's Christmas fair in Brierley Hill Civic Hall from 4.30pm on Saturday, December 5.

Anyone who wishes to take part can visit the Dudley CVS office in Albion St, Brierley Hill, or for more details about the event or the organisation call (01384) 573381.

Past and presents

SELDGEY Local History Society will be holding a talk on Christmas past to Christmas present.

Speaker Mary Bodfish will look at traditions and customs for the festive season through the ages at St Andrew's Church, Bilton Street, on November 12 at 7.30pm. Admission £1.

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THE BEST OF PETER RHODES



SUPERSTITIONS for our time. A reader tells me that, just as actors avoid the word "Macbeth" by referring to "The Scottish Play," he and his wife have grown wary of mentioning the name of their local furniture establishment. It is simply "The Swedish Store." I bet that could catch on.

IN some versions of this column the cost of the HS2 railway appeared as £60 million. If only. The true cost is £60 billion, or if you prefer, £60,000 million. If you can cope with all the zeros, it's actually £60,000,000,000 or about £1 billion per mile. Confused? I think that is what they want.

HOW insurance works: A friend who always parked his car on his drive is moving to a house with a garage. So he told his insurance company of the change and asked by how much his premium would be reduced, in view of the added security of parking in a garage. The woman at the insurance company explained that there's no reduction but he would be charged a £26 admin fee for notifying them of the change.

SO farewell, Colin Welland, who has died aged 81. I saw him on stage once and it was a memorable performance. It wasn't a play but a political rally. Welland was at Birmingham Town Hall in May 1987 speaking at a pre-election meeting in support of Neil Kinnock and Labour. The former Z-Cars star predicted that this time Labour would win. "The Tories will be so far behind," Welland thundered, "that all they'll see is our big fat arse."



The 1987 election but the 1992 one, too. Great oratory is a wonderful thing but if the voters don't trust you, it's just words.

IF it is proved that an Islamist bomb brought down the Russian airliner in Sinai, I would not care to be living in Raqa this week. The Russians are not known for their kid gloves. In the 1990s Chechnya wars, in response to terrorist bombs, Russia shelled, mortared and carpet-bombed the enemy capital Grozny until it was, as the United Nations put it, "the most destroyed city on earth." Raqa is the Syrian city which has become the capital of Islamic State and a honeypot for hundreds of brainwashed Muslims from Britain. How long before the nightmare which haunted us during 40 years of the Cold War comes true, and Russian bombs kill British citizens?

TERMS for our time. "The doily of death." A spider's web, as described on Autumnwatch (BBC1)

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Government urged to help Caparo staff

THE Government must act to ensure more than 300 Black Country workers who lost their jobs at steel giant Caparo are able to get back into work, says Labour Deputy Leader and West Bromwich East MP Tom Watson.

Workers at sites in Cradley Heath, Oldbury, Dudley, West Bromwich and Darlaston were told by administrators last week that they were

being made redundant with immediate effect.

Around 50 former and current Caparo employees were invited to the Job Centre in West Bromwich High Street or the Job Centre in Temple Street, Wolverhampton.

Caparo Atlas Fastenings in Heath Road, Darlaston was worst hit with 122 workers made redundant. A total of 68 jobs have gone at Caparo Preci-

sion Tubes in Oldbury, as well as 64 at Caparo Forging Europe in Dudley, 59 at Fairbright Wire in West Bromwich and 10 at the Cradley Heath CMT Engineering plant. The Darlaston, Dudley and West Bromwich sites closed with immediate effect.

Mr Watson put the onus on the Government to support those left jobless after years of service to the company.

He said: "This is devastating news for employees and their families. My thoughts are with them.

"The Government must act immediately to ensure all those affected are given the help they need to find new jobs, including financial assistance to retrain, if necessary. These are highly-skilled workers that our region and our country cannot afford to lose."

Asylum — burden is unfair on this region

ONE in three asylum seekers are being sent to the West Midlands, says a leading migration boss.

Roger Lawrence, chairman of the West Midlands Strategic Migration Partnership, said the region is "shouldering an unfair burden".

Mr Lawrence, leader of Wolverhampton council, said: "We believe that around one-third of all claimants nationally are being accommodated in the West Midlands.

"I am asking the Home Office to look again at the number of local authorities that asylum seekers are currently dispersed to. A small number are shouldering an unfair burden."

The Home Office won't disclose numbers of asylum seekers or the locations of accommodation for their 'protection and privacy'.

Official figures show the number in Sandwell was 695, in Wolverhampton 645, Walsall 234, and in Dudley 226. In Birmingham there were 1,400.

Patrick Harley, leader of the Conservative opposition on Dudley Council, added: "We want to see all areas take their fair share."

Mike Bird, leader of Walsall Council, said: "It is not right that the Black Country and West Midlands are housing more asylum seekers than other areas. We have a long waiting lists for housing as it is." Sandwell Council leader Darren Cooper said the area will refuse to take any more migrants or asylum seekers until other parts of the country take more, adding: "Wealthier areas have to take their fair share too."

Council's top earners paid more than £1m

By Richard Guttridge

DUDLEY Council's top 10 earners take home a total of more than a million pounds a year.

This comes at a time the authority plans to shut the town's museum and art gallery and axe up to 275 jobs.

The chief executive's salary has increased to more than £160,000. Sarah Norman currently holds the chief executive role after John Polychronakis retired last year.

The council is trying to make savings of £20 million over the next three years. Bosses have said another £50m of savings will still likely be needed even if its current proposals for cuts go through.

Finance boss Councillor David Sparks said cuts to services such as the museum, as well as reducing opening hours at libraries and at the Red House Glass Cone in Wordsley, were necessary to avoid the authority going bankrupt.

Policy

According to the council's pay policy statement for 2015, the chief executive is paid between £160,000 and £165,000 a year, an increase from £157,000.

The strategic director for people's services takes home £127,000, plus an £18,000 'statutory postholder allowance' for being both Director Children's Services and Director Adult Social Services. Another strategic director earns £117,000, plus a £10,000 postholder allowance, while a third strategic director earns £117,000. Eight chief officers are paid £90,780.

Bosses at the Labour-controlled authority have decided to take on a 'senior public health intelligence analyst,' earning more than £30,000. Dudley Clinical Commissioning Group has put £25,000 towards the new post, while £15,000 will come from the council's health budget.

Leader Councillor Pete Lowe said: "We now have one of the leanest senior management structures in the country which makes us more efficient than ever before."

Closure will force artists out of town



Shirley Bonas with exhibition program secretary Keith Turley during a past Dudley Society of Artists display

DUDLEY Society of Artists says its latest exhibition could be its last in the town due to the closure of Dudley Museum and Art Gallery.

Members are desperate for the venue, where they have held their annual exhibition for 87 years, to stay open.

The exhibition will return to the museum and art gallery on Saturday but once it comes to an end in February, they face finding a new venue.

Dudley Council is proposing closing the building, at Priory Street since 1883, and move its collections elsewhere. It is among cuts aiming to save £20 million over the next three years.

The decision has sparked backlash from the public,

with more than three thousand people signing a petition calling for the venue to be saved.

Susie Griffiths, president of the Dudley Society of Artists, said she was hopeful the council could be persuaded to change its mind.

She fears if the museum and gallery does close, the society could be forced to move its exhibition out of the town.

She said: "We are trying to get as many people as we can to sign the petition, we are encouraging all our members to do it."

"We are very upset about it, we have been holding our exhibition there for 87 years. There is nowhere else for us to go, apart from maybe Wolverhampton."

Village festival in £10k centre boost

AROUND £10,000 has been raised by a music festival to help fund a new community centre in Hagley.

Hagfest 2015 was held in the village in the summer and featured 10 local bands, school groups and attractions.

Hagley Parish Council and the existing Hagley Community Centre members have formed a team who are responsible for the project. Preliminary designs have options for a two-storey building which would accommodate more groups.

Organiser Fran Evans said: "We only had four months to organise the event, including raising sponsorship, getting a premises licence, sourcing and booking suppliers as well as organizing the bands."

Next year's festival is scheduled for July 2.

Neat dance idea to celebrate West End

A DANCE school is preparing to stage its tribute to famous West End shows in Brierley Hill. Neat Feet School of Dance is performing Magic of the Musicals on November 28 with 2pm and 6pm shows at Brierley Hill Civic Hall. Call Lynne Rowell on (01384) 423496.

POSITIVE

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Community on patrol in bid to deter the crooks

A COMMUNITY crime awareness group has held its first night-time patrol in an effort to deter vandals.

Wordsley Street Watch was set up to tackle rising crime rates and anti-social behaviour in the area. It held its first evening patrol last Thursday.

Street Watch co-ordinator, Councillor Derrick Hemingsley, said: "Members of the public gave us a very positive response. It was a success and we will now add night patrols to our future patrols."

The group organises rounds around the town and flags up any concerns with police. Supporters are hoping the group can expand in the forthcoming weeks so they can put on extra patrols in the area.

Issues

The group aims to provide reassurance to the community, as well as engaging with them to discover those issues causing concern in a bid to reduce anti-social behaviour in Wordsley.

By increasing a visible presence in the area, the group also aims to prevent crimes by making crooks think twice.

In the three months up to September, the number of crimes in the town rose by 17 per cent, prompting extra police patrols and the street watch initiative.

For more information about the group, or to volunteer to join them, call Councillor Hemingsley on 07771 977746 or email cllr.derrick.hemingsley@dudleympc.org.uk

Have Euro say at public meeting

A PUBLIC meeting discussing Britain's future in the European Union will be held in Dudley next week.

The event is being sponsored by the Europe of Freedom and Direct Democracy Group in the European Parliament backed by UKIP members. It will be held at the Brambles Hotel, in Priory Road, on Friday, November 20.

The meeting is part of a series of public meetings that will be taking place across the West Midlands.

Doors open at 7pm with the event starting at 7.30pm. Tickets cost £1, including booking fee and must be purchased in advance.

To purchase tickets for the evening and for further information about the meeting visit www.ticketsource.co.uk/saynotoeu.

Carols and brass night at civic hall

ELLENVALE Singers of Gornal join Sovereign Brass from Smethwick for festive concert. The music and carols night is at Brierley Hill Civic Hall on December 9 at 7.30pm, £7.50 adults and £3.50 children on the door.

Drug addict burglar is locked up again

A PROLIFIC burglar who was caught on CCTV raiding a house in Amblecote has been locked up for four years.

Lea Allen was filmed using a paving stone to smash a window to get into the home in Trinity Road.

The 38-year-old was still being recorded as he left the house 10 minutes later carrying £1,700 of goods including four laptops, an iPad and mobile phones.

Allen, of Conops Way, Lye, admitted burglary on July 1 this year.

He has a criminal record with 91 previous convictions, including many for thefts and burglaries.

At Wolverhampton Crown Court, Recorder Rashid Singh told Allen that he had not been taught

a lesson by a four-and-a-half year jail term he received in 2007 for breaking into homes in the Stourbridge area.

Mr Singh concluded: "This latest burglary is serious. You have not assisted in one jot to help recover that property."

"You used the crudest of methods to get into the property and the occupants suffered a significant financial loss."

Recognised

Miss Sally Cairns, prosecuting, said Allen was recognised when police officers saw the CCTV footage.

When officers went to arrest him he told them he had done it to clear a £1,500 drug debt.

James Hall, aged 31, was the victim of Allen's raid. He said: "I'm obviously pleased and happy to know he's not going to be doing this to anyone else."

"We only ever got the iPad back, but it's not about the goods that were stolen, justice has been served and I'm happy he's off the streets."

Mr Simon Hanns, defending, told the court it was accepted that Allen had an 'inglorious' criminal record.

But he said that Hall had managed to keep out of trouble for about three years.

Mr Hanns added: "Sadly he lapsed back into his drug addiction."

Bowls clubs shocked by potential massive fees

BOWLING clubs face a staggering rise of up to £12,000 in the fees they pay to Dudley Council, under plans.

The cash-strapped council, which needs to save £20 million by 2018, currently pays around £12,000 a year to maintain the greens at each of Dudley's eight bowling clubs. Clubs themselves pay only £750 towards those costs.

But council chiefs say they can no longer afford to subsidise the costs, which could leave clubs facing a massive bill.

Bosses said that if clubs decide to set up a trust then they can apply for external funding to help them out.

Dennis Joshua, from Dudley Sports Bowling Club in Kingswinford, said he was furious at the proposed move. The 79-year-old said: "We are elderly people who come here to socialise and have a go at bowling. Now it's like we're being told we've got to find £12,000 a year or mow the green ourselves. It is absolutely disgusting. We currently pay £750 a year and now they are increasing it to this - it's an astronomical rise."

Struggle

Campaigner Abdul Qadus, of Lye, said the potential rise in costs at Wollescote Park in Stourbridge was "disgraceful". "Clubs are going to struggle to pay it and are going to face some seriously difficult situations," he said.

Councillor Hilary Bills, in charge of environmental services, said clubs need to face the 'truth' over the situation.

"Unfortunately the council will not have the money to support or help when it comes to activities like this," she said. "Officers are going around the bowling clubs and giving them the truth about how subsidised they are and the fact that this can't continue."

"We will continue to support the users of the greens. However, these are unprecedented times for all councils and we have to look at different ways of managing services in the face of continued reductions in funding from national government."

"We are trying to give them options, for instance either being a in a trust or asset transfer, as then they could go and get funding."

In relation to Dudley Sports Bowling Club, she added: "We are trying our best to come up with a method to help them, but if they want to keep their bowling green open they must come up with a way."

Helen's locks lopped to help others



Helen Rich with husband John and Pastors David and Denise Marsh at Black Country charity Centrepoint

A WOMAN has cut off her three foot long plait of hair to raise money for the homeless.

Helen Rich, aged 48 from Holly Hall, who suffers from depression and anxiety, last week took the brave step with proceeds going to Centrepoint Christian Community, in Carters Green, West Bromwich, to help the homeless.

Mrs Rich said: "I've seen all the hard work Centrepoint have done in helping the homeless people of

the area and I wanted to do something about it. My depression and anxiety has dragged me down for many years. It has at points left me feeling like I couldn't help myself let alone anyone else. Seeing the remarkable work done at Centrepoint, I felt like I had to do something to help."

She added: "After my hair was cut I felt very light headed but I'm not getting caught on things or stepping on my own hair now. I'm

very happy to have been able to make a difference. I was encouraged throughout by my support workers at Home Matters and Woodside Day Centre. I couldn't have done this without them."

Helen's hair is being donated to a local wig shop, and Centrepoint will use the money to help support the services they supply for asylum seekers, homeless, young and disadvantaged people, as well as their daily soup kitchen.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Beer of the year judging at festival

JUDGING for the Campaign for Real Ale's West Midlands beer of the year will take place at the annual Dudley Winter Ale Fair.

The event, run by the Dudley and South Staffordshire branch of Camra, will feature more than 70 real ales. It is running from November 26 to 28 in Dudley Town Hall.

The entrance package of £15 on Thursday and Friday will include £9.50 of beer tokens and £2 refundable commemorative glass. On Saturday entrance includes £13 worth of tokens and the £2 refundable glass hire.

Companies sign up for jobs fair

A JOBS fair is being held in Brierley Hill this afternoon (Thu), organised by Dudley South MP Mike Wood with 40 companies and organisations taking part.

It is being held at Cable Plaza, at Waterfront West, from 2pm to 6pm.

Among the companies already signed up to take part are London Midland, Eon, Virgin Trains, Dudley College, McDonalds, the Royal Navy, Royal Army Engineers and Barclays.

Mr Wood said many of the firms would either be recruiting or offering training opportunities.

Singing spaceman to land at venue

CANADIAN astronaut Chris Hadfield, whose performance of David Bowie's Space Oddity on the International Space Station became an internet sensation, is coming to Birmingham. An Evening with Chris Hadfield takes place in Symphony Hall on January 19 at 7.30pm. He will be giving an illustrated talk about his experiences during five months in space aboard the ISS and performing songs including Space Oddity. Tickets start at £28 plus fee. See www.thsh.co.uk

Bloody opera show is cut-throat business

STEPHEN Sondheim's murderous musical masterpiece Sweeney Todd is being brought to Birmingham Hippodrome later this month.

Welsh National Opera, as part of their 'Madness' themed autumn season, will stage the gory revenge musical from November 19 to 21, relocating the story from the early Victorian era to the 1980s. German tenor David Lansperger will play the demon barber, whose unfortunate customers end up in meat pies.

Strictly hall dancing

STOURBRIDGE Town Hall is offering ballroom, Latin American and sequence dancing tuition.

Sessions take place on Wednesday from 1 to 3.45pm and 7.30-10.30pm.

Afternoon sessions cost £3 and evening sessions £3.50. Contact Fiona Bennett on (01384) 243451.

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Cloudy2Clear Windows – Service With A Smile!

It's been a crazy few months for Cloudy2Clear Windows. The company which specialises in repairing windows which are steamed up, broken or damaged by replacing the panes – not the frames has grown rapidly as homeowners take advantage of their services.

Managing Director Brian Stanley feels that it's all about service. Our product is simple. If your double glazing is misted up we can replace the glass at a fraction of the cost of a new window, in any type of frame, and with a new 5 year guarantee. But it's not just about saving people

money, although that obviously helps. Many tradespeople have struggled since last year and I honestly feel that during the good times a minority perhaps didn't focus on customer care as much as they should have done.

We make sure we turn up when we say we will, do the job the customer requires and leave their house as clean as a whistle. I often get comments back from customers on how they really didn't expect that sort of service which, in a way, is very sad for the service industry as a whole.

Cloudy2Clear service Wolverhampton and the surrounding

area and Brian is finding that his approach is a major factor in his success. The truth is that it's not just the personal satisfaction that I get from doing a good job but also it makes good business sense. I get a huge amount of business from friends and family of people

I've done work for, which just goes to show how much a little bit of effort is appreciated.'

So, if your windows are steamed up, broken or damaged give Brian a call for a free quotation on 0800 61 21 118 and he'll be happy to help!



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with Mark Andrews

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PEOPLE who know me will tell you I am seldom lost for words. But even I am struggling to comprehend the thinking of our public servants when it comes the Freedom of Information Act.

Take, for example, Keith Ireland, the managing director of Wolverhampton Council. He says the questions people are asking under the Act are not what it was originally intended for, and come mainly from people looking to 'make trouble' for the council.

Sorry about that old boy. And I think I know the type of questions he means. Like "how much money do councils spend on consultants and agency staff when reducing library hours?" Or "How many times do they use anti-terror legislation to snoop on people suspected of picking up dog poo?"

Of course the great and the good don't want us pesky troublemakers asking questions like that. Much better we stick to nice questions, such as "why are you so jolly good at everything?", "and "can we have a few more parking restrictions, please?"

Problem is, these are not the burning questions on everybody's lips, and that's not quite how democracy works. The idea is the public asks whatever questions it wants to about how our money is spent, and the public servants duly oblige. It's why they are called public servants.

And here's a good question, which nobody seems to have asked yet.

"Why did it take an Act of Parliament to make councils answer simple questions from the people they are paid to serve?" No rush, an answer within 20 working days will be fine.

■ ■ ■

NOW I'll square with you. When the World Health Organisation last week branded processed meats 'carcinogenic', and said fresh red meat 'probably causes cancer', I was worried.

I really wished I liked lettuce, salad, and the occasional oily fish, but the fact is I really can't bring myself to eat the stuff. To me, a meal is not a meal unless it has at least some beef, pork or lamb with it.

And I'm pretty partial to pork scratchings as well. Yet, according to the boffins, eating this sort of thing daily leads to an 18 per cent increase in the chances of getting cancer. Which makes my diet sound about as healthy as driving a Volkswagen.

I've since read that the risk is not quite as great as it sounds. A squeaky clean lettuce muncher typically has a six per cent chance of developing bowel cancer, while a red-blooded carnivore will probably have a seven per cent likelihood.

It probably is wise for us all to keep an eye on our meat consumption, and it surely is a good idea to discourage children from picking up bad habits. Even so, I don't think I will panic just yet.

Amjid Raza is spokesman for Dudley Muslim Association

Dudley Central Mosque is too small for the Muslim community

Dudley Council leader Councillor Pete Lowe welcomes the ruling



Council finally win mosque land dispute

Judges have decided that the proposed site for a new mosque must be handed back, **ANDREW TURTON** reports

DUDLEY Council has finally won its legal battle to stop plans for a new mosque in the town.

But Muslim leaders have vowed not to give up until they had exhausted every avenue in getting the mosque built.

After a decade-long controversy, Court of Appeal judges unanimously ruled in favour of the council over its bid to buy back land in Hall Street from Dudley Muslim Association (DMA).

Plans first emerged for the mosque to be built at the site back in 2003 as a replacement for Dudley Central Mosque in Castle Hill.

But the matter descended into a long-running dispute between the council and the DMA after a planning application was rejected in 2007.

This latest ruling, which comes after a two-day hearing held in London, states DMA must transfer the Hall Street land back to the council in January.

Reflection

But DMA has refused to rule out another legal bid to salvage its plans. Officials said they will take a 'period of calm reflection' before considering future legal options.

The Court of Appeal has ruled that DMA should also pay the council's legal costs, which have not yet been realised. But the authority confirmed last year it had spent £213,000 at that stage on legal fees.

Earlier this year, DMA offered an out-of-court settlement to pay the local authority £325,000 to finally end dispute and retain the land. But the council's cabinet rejected the offer in August after recommendations by the authority's overview and scrutiny management board following a two-day hearing.

Dudley Council leader, Councillor Pete Lowe, said the authority now wanted to work



An artist's impression of the mosque and community facilities intended for Dudley's Hall Street

again with DMA to find an alternative site for the mosque.

"We welcome the unanimous ruling which made it clear that the council has always acted lawfully and reasonably throughout this process," he said.

"Our open and transparent scrutiny process, supported by all political parties, was crucial in enabling the cabinet to make informed decisions."

"I hope we can now put this long-running issue behind us and move forward in the best interests of the town."

"We have set out very clearly our intention to support DMA in finding an alternative site. Our door remains open and we will continue to offer to work with DMA."

The legal hearings have centred on a contractual dispute dating back to 2005, when the council transferred the land at Hall Street to

the Muslim association. A clause in the contract stated that the land would transfer back to the council if the proposed development was not completed by the end of 2008.

Lawyers for the association had fought to stop the council seizing the land, where the old Nuttall's factory stands alongside Duncan Edwards Way.

But DMA suffered a blow last year when the High Court blocked an appeal against an earlier ruling.

In the latest hearing, lawyers claimed DMA was victim of an 'abuse of power' by the council over 'delays' to obtain planning permission before the deadline set by the court.

DMA spokesman Amjid Raza, said: "The Muslim community is naturally deeply disappointed with the judgement of the court in not allowing our case to proceed to full trial."

"All the judges who heard this case at vari-

ous levels expressed sympathy with the community's predicament."

"The community has made every effort to work with the council and other leaders to construct a modern fit-for-purpose mosque and community facilities to meet the ever-growing and pressing religious, educational, caring and social needs of our disadvantaged community."

"The land at Hall Street was acquired from the council's request for above purposes."

Three far right protesters have been held in the town this year, including by members of the English Defence League, in the wake of proposals for the mosque. Britain First and All Football Fans/Firms Against Islamisation also held demos in the town this year.

The marches brought disruption for traders with roads forced to shut and a huge police presence being brought into the town to keep the peace.

Since the plans first surfaced, more than 80,000 people have signed a petition against them.

Justice

Former UKIP and Liberal Democrat councillor Malcolm Davis, who helped organise the petitions, said: He said: "I think that justice has been done and I hope now this will be the end of it."

The Bishop of Dudley has called on the 'spirit of reconciliation' to prevail over the long-running saga on the future of the mosque, as he offered to broken new talks.

The Right Reverend Graham Usher said he hoped there can be a 'long-term solution'.

He said: "The Court of Appeal judgement will inevitably bring a variety of emotions to people in Dudley."

"It's important that we move forward from this decision in a spirit of reconciliation and shared endeavour for the good of all in our town."

"I am conscious that the existing Dudley Mosque is inadequate for the Muslim community's needs and they are in urgent need of new and improved facilities."

"I stand ready to help facilitate a conversation between Dudley Council and the Dudley Muslim Association to try to find a new vision that will fulfil the community's needs."

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Book's important message for women

I HAVE just read the book My Own Story by Emmeline Pankhurst, which was the inspiration for the film Suffragette.

This account should be read by every woman in order that they may know what women went through to get the vote.

It is a harrowing account of the struggle made by women of all classes against the chicanery and deceit of the government. The brutality meted out to these women, especially during forced feeding was horrifying and barbaric, all this by order of the government – men.

Why time off for good behaviour?

YET again we hear of someone who has committed a serious crime and has been given a considerable prison sentence by the judge – only to be released after serving a fraction of the time given.

Is this a reward for behaving well whilst in prison, because if they had behaved well on the outside then they would not be there in the first place.

Or is it some sort of unwritten rule that they don't have to complete the time the judge gave them anyway?

It is about time that offenders, instead of getting time off for good behaviour, did the full time and got ADDED time for bad behaviour.

The present system just makes a mockery of the sentence given by the judge and I am sure they must wonder why they bother.

J JAMES
Wordsley

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

POST

Dudley Chronicle,
Chronicle Editorial,
51-53 Queen Street
Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES

Letters should be brief and MUST include name, address and telephone number. The Editor reserves the right to condense letters.

Clearing up myths over fox hunting

AS the traditional fox hunting season gets under way, it's time to clear up a few myths about foxes and fox hunting.

It's been 10 years since hunting with dogs for sport was banned. It's a popular law among country dwellers and townsfolk alike, with eight out of 10 people keen for it to remain in place. It's also very successful, with the highest number and percentage of convictions of any wildlife animal welfare law in the UK and even better, has successfully reduced animal cruelty.

Yet still hunt supporters will cry foul play and claim fox hunting is necessary for wildlife management. But a world expert on foxes reveals that hunting is an unnecessary activity as foxes are not the pests that hunts like to claim.

A new report from Professor Stephen Harris from the University of Bristol shows that hunting does not reduce fox populations and killing foxes can in fact increase their numbers in a given area as more turn to up to compete for the vacant territory. He also shows that fox predation does not have a significant impact on farmers. In fact, farmers can benefit because of the number of rabbits taken by foxes.

TOM QUINN
Campaigns Director
League Against Cruel Sports

I am proud to be a member of Townswomen's Guilds which were started in 1929, when women at last got the vote!

It was realised that after being kept down and tied to the kitchen sink for so many years, some women needed to be taught what they could do to widen their horizons, that there is a life outside the home, without neglecting their wifely duties, and in so doing, they would be able to use their votes wisely and be more fulfilled.

Townswomen's Guilds is a non-political, non-sectarian, and non-racist organisation open to all women irrespective of race, creed, or political persuasion, which still campaigns for different things by putting forth reasoned arguments and suggestions.

Further and fuller information may be obtained from the Townswomen's Headquarters on Tyburn Road, Erdington, telephone 0121 326 0400. They would be only too pleased to furnish you with the details of what we stand for, past successes and details of guilds near you. Incidentally, we are nothing to do with the WI, jam and Jerusalem!

MRS N T CROSBEE

Smethwick

Bag it or should be ashamed

WITH reference to the letter printed in The Chronicle on October 22, 2015: E Ward Davies, Stourbridge, you should be ashamed of yourself stating because you now have to pay for a carrier bag you will be leaving your dog's poo behind.

Your dogs and your responsibility to pick up after them.

If you can afford four dogs you can afford to go and buy a pack of bin bags to collect your dog's poo in.

Free carrier bags were issued by stores for the purpose of carrying the items you had purchased.

Yes, you could then recycle them whichever way you chose to.

I do, however, agree with you with regards to irresponsible people leaving dirty nappies around. You are now going to join that minority with regards to your intentions, by leaving your dog's poo behind.

Shame on you.
J E WILLETT
Brierley Hill

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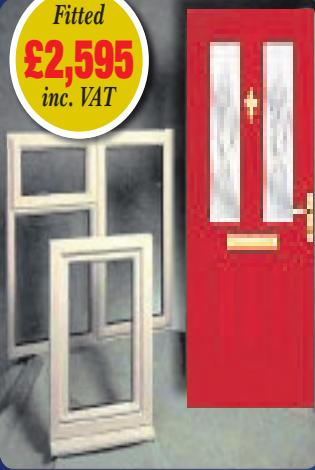
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The parade went through the town centre to Coronation Gardens



Standard bearers from uniformed services and veteran organisations at the cenotaph service



Veterans line up at the start of the remembrance parade from Top Church



We will remember them — veterans at the service in Dudley



Crosses left at Dudley Council House in memory of those lost their lives in conflicts

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Crowds honour fallen

THOUSANDS gathered in Dudley to pay tribute to members of the armed forces killed in conflict.

Families from across the borough crowded into Coronation Gardens as civic dignitaries led the Remembrance Sunday proceedings.

These included a service at the cenotaph in Ednam Road and a parade featuring armed forces veterans. Music was provided by the Salvation Army band and Dudley College students.

There were poignant moments as hymns and the national anthem were sang with pride, the

Last Post was played and a two-minute silence observed.

Councillor Steve Walther, Mayor of Dudley, said: "It is a great honour to be leading our community in marking the contribution and sacrifice made by our Armed Forces at this Remembrance Sunday parade and service."

"I am delighted that so many people came along to help thank those heroes who have served in the past and the men and women who currently in service at home and abroad today."

He added as many as 2,000 people had attended the event and there had been particularly large numbers of young people.

"Young people are key to these services," he explained.

"Each year we see more and more whether that be as members of the cadets or members of the public."

"It is so important they are educated and they remember the sacrifices made so they do not make the same mistakes as previous generations perhaps did."

Yesterday (Wednesday) veterans were joining councillors and members of the public at the Clock Tower, Priory Street, for the annual Armistice Day service to mark the end of the First World War.



Some of the many crosses of remembrance outside Dudley Council House

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Criticism for council's £6.5m agency staff bill

Driver had to be cut free



The car left hanging in a tree after the accident in Cradley from which the driver had to be rescued and taken to hospital in Birmingham

A MAN had to be cut free after a car crashed and was left hanging in a tree in the Black Country.

Two other men also received facial and back injuries when the vehicle crashed into a metal fence outside a football training facility in Park Road, Cradley.

The driver, aged in his 30s, was trapped under in the wreckage and had to be cut free by West Midlands Fire Service. He complained of severe back pain and was taken to Queen Elizabeth Hospital.

Claire Brown, of West Midlands Ambulance Service spokesperson,

said: "Emergency services arrived to find a car had left the road, gone through a metal fence and came to rest in a tree on the other side of a wall. The two passengers, both men believed to be in their 20s to 30s, had got out of the car and had suffered relatively minor injuries."

"One had a facial injury which required some dressings on scene before both were taken to Russells Hall Hospital. The driver, a man in his 30s, was trapped in the wreckage."

The accident happened at around 12.40am on Saturday.

CASH-STRAPPED Dudley Council spent £6.5 million on agency staff last year, it has been revealed.

It comes as the authority is proposing to shut the town's museum and art gallery and axe up to 275 jobs in order to save £20m.

Bosses insisted the appointment of temporary staff was necessary to ensure roles were not left vacant.

UKIP councillor Bill Etheridge said: "The fact that Dudley Council is spending millions on temporary and agency staff, when it has announced plans to close the museum and art gallery, shows poor planning and recruitment policies on their part."

The authority has come under fire after revealing drastic cuts for the next three years which will see the museum and art gallery on Priory Street close and opening hours reduced at libraries and the Red House Glass Cone in Wordsley.

UKIP councillor Paul Brothwood told the council's cabinet: "Most of the cuts seems to be to frontline services, which is surprising to see when the council has spent nearly £7 million on agency staff."

"We should be focusing on cuts to agency staff as opposed to frontline services."

Practical

Expenditure on agency staff in 2014/15 fell slightly from £6.6m the previous year.

Deputy leader Judy Foster said: "There are a number of practical business reasons why Dudley Council employs agency and interim staff. Reasons include that key positions and statutory posts cannot remain vacant as they would put the authority in breach of its statutory responsibilities and deprive Dudley residents of the important services they need."

"We continue with our efforts to recruit permanent members of staff to these key positions, and if we are unable to find people suitable to fill them permanently they are being filled on a temporary basis."

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10 Black Country sporting heroes honoured at glitzy prize night

IT WAS the night that local sporting heroes went from grass-roots to glamour as achievements were honoured at the annual Black Country Sport and Physical Activity Awards.

The inspirational ceremony, organised by the Black Country BeActive, saw athletes, coaches and volunteers at Wolverhampton's Ramaida Park Hall Hotel to celebrate in style.

Halesowen's wheelchair tennis Paralympic champion, Jordanne Whiley, scored in two of the categories, picking up Disabled Sportsperson of the Year and Sportsperson of the Year.

Her mother Julie received the awards on her behalf whilst she competes in California.

A video message was played out from Jordanne, who was awarded an MBE last month after winning two grand slam doubles titles in the summer and her first grand slam single title in the US Open just weeks before. "I just wanted to say thanks so much for both of the awards," she said on a big screen.

Double

It was a double celebration for Jordanne who also scooped the Sky Disability Sportswoman of the Year prize at a separate awards evening.

One of Britain's greatest cyclists, Hugh Porter MBE, was present to receive the Elvis Gordon Chair's Recognition Award for his outstanding contribution to both sport and the Black Country.

Six-time gold medal winning Paralympic athlete, David Weir, was guest speaker for the evening.

Winners in other categories included Corey Clarke for Newcomer of the Year, Richard Newell for Community Coach of the Year and Darlaston FC's Gilbert Preece, aged 72, for Unsung Hero.

FORMER chairman of Oldbury Repertory Players, Doreen Bastable, has died aged 87 after an illness.

A member of the respected amateur company since 1942, Mrs Bastable from Halesowen served the group in several roles and was made chairman in 1977.

She guided the company through many changes at its Spring Street base and its conversion into Barlow Playhouse, opened in 1956 by Sir Barry Jackson, founder of Birmingham Rep. Her late husband, Dan, was also a supporter of Oldbury Rep and was instrumental in the conversion of the Spring Street Methodist Chapel into a theatre.

Chairman Chris Smith said: "Doreen was a true inspiration to all of us over the years."

In 1969 she had been made a life member and had appeared on stage in 54 productions, and was still involved in selling programmes for the July production of Hi-De-Hi.

Sadness as church trees must go



Rev Simon Falshaw between the two beech trees, believed to be a century old, which are being felled

CONTROVERSIAL plans to fell two beech trees in a Lye churchyard have been given the go-ahead by a Church of England judge because of damage being caused by their roots.

Despite a petition to save the trees in the yard at Christ Church, Charles Mynders, Chancellor of the Diocese of Worcestershire and a judge of the Church's Consistory Court, has given

the green light for the trees to go.

This decision flew in the face of opposition from residents and the Parochial Church Council.

Rev Simon Falshaw, the vicar for Lye, said: "They're old trees – maybe 100 years old – and it's a sad day for the local community that they're being felled."

In a 2,500-word judgment Chancel-

lor Mynders admitted the trees were 'extremely attractive', agreeing with residents they provided 'a lovely green spot in an otherwise busy High Street environment' – but had to be felled regardless.

The application for permission to fell them was made by Dudley Council, after subsidence damage to nearby buildings caused by the trees' roots.

Flood areas to get new camera alerts

NEW flood warning cameras are being installed at flooding blackspots near homes across the Black Country.

Campaigners living in Halesowen were among those to suffer problems after Illey Brook flooded sending water into 46 homes.

A camera was installed to monitor the brook and now a wider scheme has been launched to alert residents to potential flooding through the Black Country.

Now flood warning cameras have been installed in other sites including Kingswinford, Darlaston and Willenhall.

The camera system, which is solar powered, will monitor seven watercourses to help ensure people are alerted if their properties are at risk of flooding.

Gushed

People signed up to the Environment Agency's flood warning service will receive an automated call once water rises.

They can also follow the camera via Twitter to receive alerts and photos when the water levels rise significantly.

Water gushed into homes in Honeybourne Road from Illey Brook in 2008 after the adjourning River Stour was overwhelmed by heavy rainfall.

Lights action music as village switch on

PEOPLE living in Wall Heath are gearing up for their big Christmas lights switch-on later this month.

There will be plenty of entertainment in the village on November 29, including a mini funfair, Santa's grotto and snow machine, in High Street.

The Kingswinford Male Voice Choir will also be performing at the event organised by Wall Heath Village People. The switch on is at 4pm.

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Victim of stabbing now fears permanent damage



Teenage victim Jason Head, from Essex, recovering with his girlfriend Naomi Palmer after he was stabbed in the arm

A TEENAGER stabbed in an unprovoked attack in Brierley Hill fears he has lost the feeling in his arm for good.

Nineteen-year-old Jason Head was with his girlfriend Naomi Palmer on October 31 evening when he was slashed with a knife, leaving a deep gash that needed 20 stitches.

Essex resident Mr Head was visiting Miss Palmer and the pair went out with three friends for a few drinks on Halloween around 9pm.

But they changed their minds after being on the subject aggravation outside the Bull's Head pub and headed

back towards Miss Palmer's home, when the attack occurred in Brettell Lane.

Mr Head said a group of thugs 'went for him three or four times' before slashing him with the knife.

Builder Mr Head said the attackers laughed at him after he was wounded.

"It's just unbelievable," he said. "A couple of guys started on me for no reason. I spoke to them, they grabbed me then pushed me so we left. Then as we were walking back home a group of guys came towards us and the next thing I knew I'd been stabbed and they ran off. Apparently I passed out but I don't remember."

Fortunately an ambulance was passing and Mr Head was taken to Russells Hall Hospital where he had the three inch wide and four inch long wound was stitched.

Days later Mr Head was still in pain does not know if the injury will have a lasting effect. "It feels like a constant bee sting on my arm," he said. "It's really sore and I can't move my arm. I might have lost the feeling in my arm for good."

Police said an 18-year-old local man was arrested and bailed pending further enquiries. Anyone with information should call 101 or Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555111.



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Gabrielle made up at contest success



Looking good — Midlands Fashion Awards Best Make-up Artist of the Year 2015, Gabrielle Hunt, aged 19, of Kinver

TEENAGER Gabrielle Hunt is hoping she could be one day applying blusher and lipstick to the faces of movie stars after winning a top make-up award.

Gabrielle, from Kinver, near Bridgnorth, is all made up after being named Make-up Artist of the Year at the 2015 Midlands Fashion Awards in Birmingham and as a result will now be getting tips from one of her idols, leading make-up artist, Jules Cardozo-Marsh.

To win the contest, Gabrielle overcame a nerve-jangling final test of her skills — which took place at the fashion show itself. The finalists were tasked

with applying make-up to the catwalk models appearing at the ceremony, with the judges deciding Gabrielle's work was the best.

The 19-year-old currently works as a make-up artist on a freelance basis, attending weddings and fashion events.

Film

She is also currently also working on a low-budget sci-fi film called Kaleidoscope Man.

Gabrielle had impressed the judging panel at earlier events to be chosen as a finalist, and was delighted to beat some stiff competition in Birmingham.

She said: "It feels great, it is a big compliment. It is a line of work that can make you very self-critical so it's great for my confidence."

Gabrielle is now looking forward to working with Jules and believes the experienced make-up artist will provide her with invaluable support.

Jules is one of the most highly regarded session make-up artists in the UK and has become known for creating stunning looks for leading fashion and beauty brands such as Schwarzkopf, L'Oréal and Marks & Spencer.

"It will be amazing," Gabrielle said.

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Charities share £100k cash bonanza

THREE charities in the Black Country are among 1,000 around the UK to benefit from Yorkshire Building Society members' small change.

The society's charitable foundation has donated a total of £100,000 to charities and good causes nominated by people during its Small Change Big Difference campaign.

Mary Stevens Hospice, Alzheimer's Society and Midland Air Ambulance were among those to be given a £100 donation after being nominated at the Halesowen branch of Yorkshire Building Society.

The foundation is funded through the scheme where members donate the pennies from the annual interest

on their accounts to help charities and good causes.

Lorna Kendrick, manager of the Halesowen branch of the building society, said: "I hope these donations will enable the charities to carry on their wonderful work."

To sign up and make a difference visit www.ybs.co.uk website.

Speeds up to 100mph are clocked on the B'ham New Road

Panto time, oh yes it is!



Nina Best, Annie Fellows and Charlotte Wood in costume for Dick Whittington

GET ready to shout 'he's behind you' as Kinver Operatic Society gear up for their annual pantomime in the South Staffs village.

More than 30 cast members are aiming to delight audiences with their version of Dick Whittington, which will run at Kinver High School from November 29 to December 5.

Bigger

Nina Best, publicity officer for the society, said: "Every single year we try to make our panto bigger and better than ever before and this year is no exception."

"We are really excited and will have all the expected costumes and characters ranging from a dame to a boy playing the lead as a girl."

"It is great comedy value for all the family to come along and enjoy."

"We have already sold a lot of our weekend tickets. When our panto season arrives it marks the start of Christmas."

Kinver Operatic Society were formed in 1977 and perform their main shows every May and December."

Tickets for the show are £9.

For more information visit the society's website at www.klos.co.uk

Older mothers put birth units under pressure

RECORD numbers of births to older mothers are putting maternity units under pressure with the NHS short of around 2,600 midwives.

The number of babies born in England and Wales to women in their thirties and forties was up 6,859 in 2014. And that figure is on the rise in the West Midlands too, raising fears that hospitals that are already under pressure will struggle to cope. In Sandwell the number rose by four per cent, compared to three per cent in Dudley and Wolverhampton, two per cent in Walsall and three per cent in Staffordshire.

Nationally, births to women in their early thirties (30-34) have been above 200,000 in each year since 2010 — a level not seen since at least the 1930s.

In every year since 2006, more than 110,000 babies have been born to women in their late thirties (35-39). This is a level of births not seen since just after the Second World War, and four times the level of the late 1970s.

For women in their 40s, births have been above 29,000 for four years in a row. These are again numbers not seen since the years after the Second World War.

Dynamo pledge to stun fans at live arena show

TV MAGICIAN Dynamo is bringing his Seeing Is Believing show to Birmingham's Barclaycard Arena for five consecutive nights next month.

The hip street magician, whose stunts have included walking on water on the River Thames and levitating above London skyscraper The Shard, opened his tour in Manchester last month after announcing his last series of Dynamo: Magician Impossible for TV channel Watch.

Dynamo, real name Steven Frayne, hit screens just three years ago with his first series of Magician Impossi-

ble and has quickly established himself as one of the world's best known magicians, with his series airing in over 150 countries reaching over 250 million viewers. He was recently awarded the highest accolade by the Magic Circle with promotion to Member of the Inner Magic Circle with Gold Star.

Dynamo says: "I am hoping that like I did for magic on TV, I can reinvent the live magic show and produce something fans have never seen before."

Dynamo will be in Birmingham from December 9 to 13. Tickets start from £37.25. Call 0844 338 8000.

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EofE rockers are kings of the castle



Dudley's rising stars EofE, from left, Dan Bremner, Reece Luke, Tom Harris, Luke Bradley and Nicky Waters

THEY have been performing to thousands of fans on tours with McBusted and The Vamps.

But Dudley boy band EofE are now hoping their debut album will take them to the top of the bill.

Following a 32-date sell out arena tour with supergroup McBusted in 2014, and a support slot with teen favourites The Vamps, EofE are now keen to conquer in their own right.

Tom Harris, Dan Bremner, Luke Bradley, Nicky Waters and more recent recruit Reece Luke say the album swiftly came together after touring, and that their sound has now ma-

tured. Mixing rock and pop, the band have already drawn attention from rock music magazine Kerrang! and leading music app Spotify.

Reece, aged 22, said: "We know what our strengths are now and our sound has matured, there's no doubt about it."

"We've been a five piece for just under a year, and sometimes it takes members a lot of time to gel together to create music, but with us it just came together really quickly."

EofE, whose name is taken from the James Dean film East of Eden, first formed in 2012 after guitarist Dan and

bassist Luke attended Ellowes Hall School in Gornal.

The band, pictured during a visit to Dudley Castle in their home town, say that they are proud of their self-titled debut.

Singer Tom, aged 18, explained: "All we ever wanted to do was write and play, I don't think any of us set out to make money, yet now our hobby has turned into our career."

EofE can be followed on Facebook at facebook.com/eofeofficial

They will be next playing locally at Stourbridge's River Rooms, in Mill Race Lane, on December 3.

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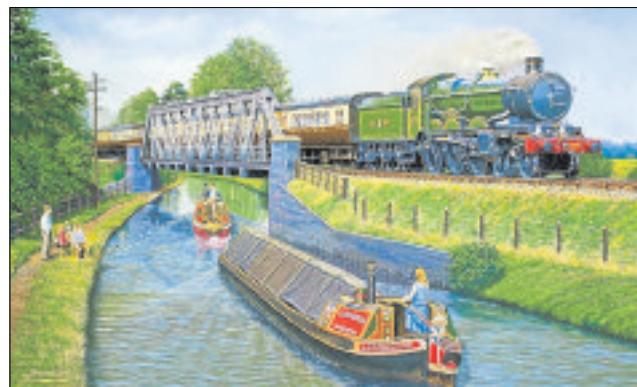
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A picture of the 1772 canal bridge, seen from the new bridge, as it was 110 years ago



Joey Brew holding the jigsaw below the bridge it depicts



Barry Freeman's painting End of an Era, featuring the Defiant locomotive



The 'Meccano' bridge under construction 100 years ago



The coal yard at Newbridge, by the old canal bridge

Centre puts pieces together to bridge gap from end of an era

IN the summer of 1947, the Great Western Railway Castle Class locomotive Defiant hauled a passenger train from Tettenhall Station, crossing the Staffordshire and Worcestershire Canal on the Warren Truss girder bridge.

Always known locally as the Meccano Bridge, it was only 400 yards beyond the station, with private, working narrowboats hauling loads on the waterway beneath.

This really was heading towards the end of an era, because on January 1, 1948 the railways and the waterways were nationalised.

It was the end of an era in another sense, as the very last flights of any Defiant aircraft, after which the locomotive was named, were made at this time from Pendeford airfield, only half a mile away, where Boulton Paul still used one of two for development work.

MEMORY LANE

By Alec Brew

The Tettenhall Transport Heritage Centre – based near the canal at the Smestow Valley local nature reserve – discovered that a marvellous painting depicting the historic scene, painted by local artist, Barry Freeman had been made into a 1000 piece jigsaw puzzle.

Immediately they secured a stock for sale in their shop, ready for Christmas, and to publicise it's existence to locals who know the Meccano bridge so well. The Meccano Bridge now carries the Smestow Valley foot/cycle path across the canal.

It was built a hundred years ago to carry what was built as the Wolverhampton to Bridgnorth Railway, though the branch from Wombourne to Bridgnorth was never actually completed.

The next bridge over the canal to the East was built, along with the canal, in 1772, to

carry the London to Holyhead Road, and alongside that, as at most canal/road junctions in the town, there was a coal yard, on the site of the current MS Centre.

Right next to the 1772 bridge is the New Bridge, carrying Thomas Telford's road below The Rock.

However the bridge carrying the road now, is not Telford's bridge, which gave the area its name, because that was knocked down in 1930, along with the Newbridge pub which was built on the end of it, and was replaced with the bridge we have today, a new Newbridge pub being built over the road.

A little nearer the Rock yet another bridge carries the Tettenhall road over the old railway line as well, and yet such is the design of the main road, many people driving along it each day would struggle to realise what a cluster of bridges there are.

The Heritage Centre, at Tettenhall Station is open every Sunday, and makes a perfect place to explore these local history gems.



Alec Brew seen inside the centre

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Teenage traders are in the market for success

A NEW market run solely by teenagers has been launched in Dudley town centre – with organisers hailing the first event a huge success.

Stakeholders sold a variety of wares at the market held in Stone Street earlier this month.

Musicians were also given the opportunity to show what they could do, with lives music providing the backdrop during the event.

The 25-stall market was launched by Dudley Council in an attempt to give young people the opportunity to gain valuable experience and showcase their skills.

Ivy Garratt seized the chance to sell some unwanted items from home, including shoes and bags, with the day proving to be a huge success. The 19-year-old from Dudley is eyeing a future in customer services and said it was a great opportunity to improve her people skills. She said: "My mum saw it on Facebook and asked me and my sister if we wanted to do it. We have both worked in retail but this is more about communication."

"We've had to go back home and get two more lots of stock because we sold it all. It's good practice for the real world. It's a really good opportunity for teenagers. Dudley teenagers seem to be viewed as the worst thing in the world but this shows we're not all bad and that we've got aspirations and dreams."

Friends Molly Shaw and Amy Norris took up a stall so they could raise cash for their African adventure next year. They each need to raise £2,000 to fund a conservation experience trip to the Kruger National Park, in South Africa, where they will learn about wildlife conservation.



Musician Shannon Wheatley, aged 17, of Upper Gornal, performed at The Teenage Market in Dudley

More than a quarter below the living wage

MORE than a quarter of workers in the Black Country and Staffordshire earn below the living wage, new figures show, with the figure rising close to 30 per cent in some areas.

The voluntary living wage, as promoted by the Living Wage Foundation campaign group, has increased by 40p per hour to £8.25 per hour.

More than 2,000 accredited employers have agreed to pay it, including Lloyds Banking Group, Barclays, Unilever and Richer Sounds. The figure is higher than the current national minimum wage of £6.70 per hour, and the Government's pending National Living Wage for those aged 25 and over of £7.20 per hour, from April.

Although the increase means a pay rise for staff working at employers signed up to the living wage, across the Black Country and Staffordshire 167,000 workers earn less than the old rate of £7.85 per hour.

Figures from the Office for National Statistics show that in South Staffordshire almost one in three jobs pay less than the rate.

Walsall has 25,000 employees earning less than the old rate (28.1 per cent) while in Dudley the same can be said of 28,000 staff (26.6 per cent). In Wolverhampton, a quarter of employees earn less than £7.85 per hour, representing 23,000 jobs. In Sandwell, 36,000 workers pick up less than £7.85 an hour, equating to 29.5 per cent per cent of the workforce.

Ravi Subramanian, Regional Secretary for Unison in the West Midlands, said:

Injustice

Commenting on the increased rate of £8.25 per hour, Sarah Vero, director at the Living Wage Foundation said: "We are celebrating those 2,000 responsible businesses that are voluntarily paying the living wage to their staff.

"These employers are not waiting for Government to tell them what to do. Their actions are helping to end the injustice that is in-work poverty in the UK now."

As with the government's minimum wage, employers have six months to bring in the new pay level. The living wage is an informal benchmark, and is not a legally enforceable minimum.

Six Million Dollar Man at NEC event

TELEVISION'S Six Million Dollar Man will be visiting the MCM Comic Con event taking place at Birmingham's National Exhibition Centre later this month.

Lee Majors, who played the biologically-enhanced Steve Austin, will be among the stars attending the event on November 21 and 22.

He will be meeting fans and signing autographs on both days of the NEC event.

The 75-year-old actor starred in the The Six Million Dollar Man series from 1973 to 1978 and then in The Fall Guy from 1981 to 1986.

The Six Million Dollar Man followed the adventures of Colonel Steve Austin, who gains superhuman strength, speed and vision after being 'rebuilt' with bionic implants following a 'plane crash.'

Comic Con Birmingham will also feature memorabilia from films and TV shows, comics, toys and clothing.

Oscar winner plans an Arena concert

HE'S the maestro behind iconic movie soundtracks including Gladiator and The Dark Knight.

And now Oscar-winning film composer, Hans Zimmer will be bringing his music to Birmingham in one of only two UK shows.

Zimmer's CV is a compendium of top Hollywood films with the German-born musician composing the soundtracks to blockbusters such as Inception, Interstellar, 12 Years a Slave, The Pirates of the Caribbean series, and The Dark Knight trilogy.

The Da Vinci Code, Mission Impossible, Guy Ritchie's Sherlock Holmes, Thelma And Louise, Crimson Tide, and Rain Man are also on his impressive list of 100 film scores.

During the tour, his 20-piece studio band, with whom he records his award-winning soundtracks, will be appearing alongside Lebo M, best known for his stunning vocals on Zimmer's Oscar-winning score for Disney's The Lion King.

There will be an orchestra and choir with over 70 musicians on stage at the Barclaycard Arena on April 12.

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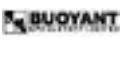
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Brave Man Will is giving 100 per cent

REVIEW

by Leon Burakowski

POP idol, clown prince and sweet soul singer – all these titles are appropriate for Will Young, back with his first tour in four years.

The well-spoken lad from Berkshire was the first in the Simon Cowell era of TV talent show successes.

It's no secret that Cowell wanted his rival Gareth Gates to win TV's Pop Idol show, especially after Young famously gave the music and media mogul an eloquent rebuke on TV.

Fourteen years on, with a new record label deal and recovered from a breakdown, and established as a stage and screen actor, Young is back in the chart with sixth album 85% Proof and was giving his faithful fans in Birmingham 100 per cent entertainment.

Wearing a black trouser suit with baggy culottes but no sleeves, which simultaneously suggested Catholic priest and northern soul dancer, the 36-year-old launched his 90-minute set with Brave Man, singing into a paper blizzard which set the theatrical tone.

Backed by a five-piece band and an exceptional trio of backing singers, the singer took his music seriously but sent himself up something rotten.

His quirky humour was apparent in ramblings about Pudsey Bear and Strictly Come Dancing, cheeky banter with the audience and a photo backdrop that made him look like an evangelical preacher.

We also got good Will hunting the groove, bringing the funk for his Justin Timberlake-like U Think I'm Sexy and blending Your Game with his version of Donna Summer's Love To Love You Baby.



Will Young delighted his fans at Symphony Hall last week and returns on Monday

He also turned back the clock to the beginning of his career with his jazzy take on The Doors' Light My Fire.

He turned up the heat with his rockiest number Switch It On, followed by the hits Grace and Jealousy, the latter finally getting all the audience out of their seats and into dance mode.

It says something for the strength of his latest album that two out of three of the encores were plucked from it, the up-tempo retro soul of Love Revolution and the aptly named anthem Joy.

He ended with the hit that really established him as a serious artist, fans' favourite Leave Right Now.

But he will be back at the Symphony Hall on Monday, November 16.

It will be worth turning up early for the support slot from London soul singer Lemar.

He impressed before Young's set on Wednesday with bare bones acoustic versions of his 10-year-old hits, including If There's Any Justice, and classic soul covers from new album The Letter.

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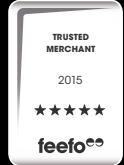
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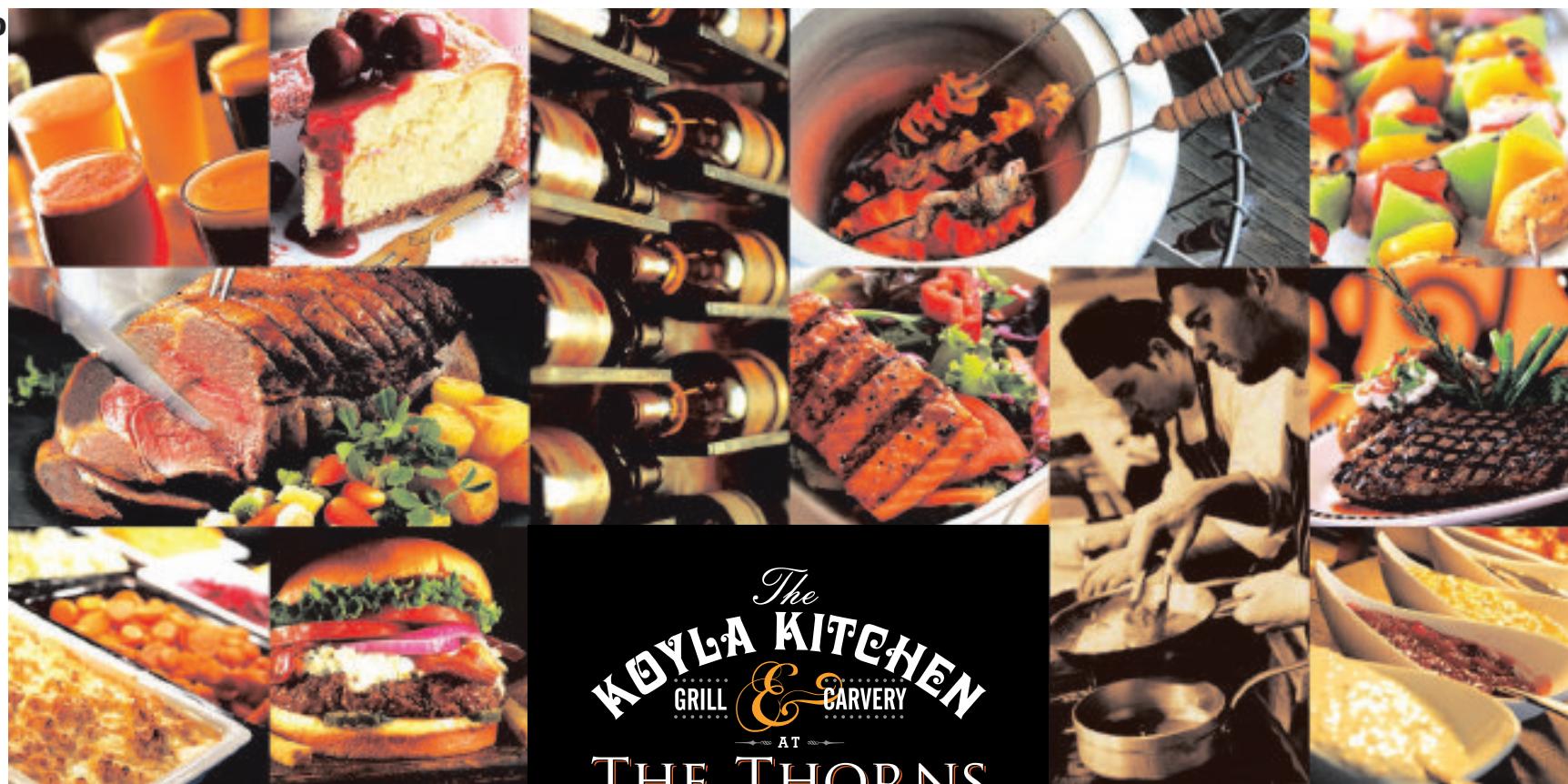
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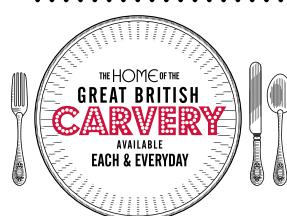
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Ange Hardy with the Celtic harp just one of the instruments she used on the night

Hardy has such magical music right at her feet

Ange Hardy

The Kitchen Garden Cafe, Birmingham
TO say Ange Hardy is multi-talented is a serious understatement.

With her electronic gadgetry she is like a one woman orchestra with flutes, guitars, harp and a big toe which worked overtime on her loop pedal to produce some stunning effects and self-layered harmonies.

All this aside the one thing which stands out about the Somerset singer is her absolutely gorgeous voice, it is superb, almost ethereal in its mesmerising quality.

From the opening song Daughters of Watchet you realise her skills with her instruments are, without in any way being disparaging, gilding the lily.

She honestly doesn't need anything else other than her voice, it is just a sheer pleasure to listen to, the fact she includes so many embellishments with her instruments is a real bonus for the audience.

Hardy brought a mixture of tracks from her latest album Esteeseem, which is inspired by the life of Samuel Taylor Coler-

REVIEWS

idge, and songs which she has never really sung live before including the opener.

With the beautiful tones she brings to her songs such as the Sailor's Farewell she is able to create a whole world of images for the listener.

In the intimate surroundings of the cafe venue in Kings Heath it made the concert much more personal and you could get a real feel for the quality of her voice.

With her big toe working overtime she flicked her loop on and off to give her the chance to sing harmonies and accompany herself with more than one instrument at a time.

Hardy's songs have almost a spiritual quality and her gentle harp and flute playing add to the atmosphere of her music wonderfully.

Danny Farragher

Sunjay is slick when it comes to the blues

Sunjay Black & Blues

SUNJAY is an excellent bluesman, and for such a young musician he plays his guitar like he had it in the cradle.

The album was produced by Eddy Morton in his Stourbridge studio and it was recorded in a day.

This could account for the impressive raw, unpolished feel which some of the songs on this album have.

Drop Down Mama is one Sunjay has been taking around on his tours for some time and now the foot stompers down on disc it still has the feel of a live performance.

He shows his skill with guitar with the traditional depression era blues song Nobody Wants To Know You When You Down & Out and if you want further proof of his skill with the fretboard then Duncan & Brady is as good an example as any.

Sunjay has a really smooth style of playing blues, his voice lends itself more to the slick rather than the dirty or gritty style of blues.

There are no bad tracks on this album which includes St James Infirmary and You Don't Learn That In School which is a cheeky irreverent song.

Sunjay sounds cool, plays cool and looks cool so much so you almost expect a little light to come when he opens his guitar case. The album is released on November 30. Visit www.sunjay.tv

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Now, for the first time in history, some of these never-before-seen artefacts will go on public display at the museum of London.

From Jack the Ripper and the Great Train Robbery, to the Millennium Dome diamond heist and the Glasgow airport

terrorist attack, Crime Scene Uncovered reveals the human stories behind the actions, and gives an insight into how such crimes were solved along with the advances in detection and criminal justice.

Among the many items on display, highlights include: memoirs of Donald Swanson, the senior officer on the Jack the Ripper investigation in the late 1800's; masks used by the Stratton brothers, the first criminals to be convicted based on fingerprint evidence; personal possessions of Ronnie Biggs, the Kray twins and other criminals, plus early counterfeiting and forgery implements.

A visit is also included to the Household Cavalry Museum, located in Horse Guards, one of the city's most historic buildings. This offers a behind the scenes look at the work that goes into the ceremonial and armoured reconnaissance role of HM The Queen's mounted bodyguard.

INFO

- Return coach travel
- Overnight half-board accommodation
- Entrance to the Crime Museum Uncovered exhibition at the Museum of London
- Entrance to the Household Cavalry Museum
- Single rooms subject to availability - supplement applies

Organised by Diamond Holidays (ABTA W0552)

Pick of the week

Lumiere London

Two days departing January 16

PRICE FROM **£79**

- Return coach travel
- Overnight bed and breakfast accommodation
- Visit to London for the Lumiere London light festival
- Time for shopping or sightseeing
- Single rooms subject to availability - supplement applies

Organised by Diamond Holidays (ABTA W0552)

Springtime at Eden

Four days departing March 18

PRICE FROM **£229**

- Return coach travel
- Three nights half-board accommodation
- Entrance to the Eden Project and the Lost Gardens of Heligan
- Visit to Torquay
- Single rooms subject to availability - supplement applies

Organised by Diamond Holidays (ABTA W0552)

The Dawlish Railway and the Avocet Line

Four days departing Mar 18, May 16, Jul 29, Sept 30, Oct 20

PRICE FROM **£229**

- Return coach travel
- Three nights half-board accommodation
- Railway journey on the Riviera Line from Exeter to Paignton
- Cruise on the River Exe with cream tea
- Railway journey on the Avocet Line from Topsham to Exmouth
- Free time in Torquay and Exmouth
- Single rooms subject to availability - supplement applies

Organised by Diamond Holidays (ABTA W0552)

Colourful Cornwall, St Ives, Padstow and Falmouth

Four days departing Mar 18, Apr 1, May 16, Jul 8 Sept 30

PRICE FROM **£229**

- Return coach travel
- Three nights half-board accommodation
- Visits to Falmouth, St Ives, Penzance and Padstow
- Entrance to Trebah Gardens
- Single rooms subject to availability - supplement applies

Organised by Diamond Holidays (ABTA W0552)

Classical Spectacular at the Royal Albert Hall

Two days departing March 20

PRICE FROM **£139**

- Return coach travel
- Overnight bed and breakfast accommodation
- Choir seat for the concert (upgrades offered)
- Sightseeing tour of London or time to shop and sightsee
- Services of a tour manager
- Single rooms subject to availability - supplement applies

Organised by Newmarket Holidays (ABTA V787X)

Bath and Oxford Buy one get one free

Two days departing March 20

PRICE FROM **£155**

- Return coach travel
- Overnight bed and breakfast accommodation
- Visits to Oxford and Bath
- Single rooms subject to availability - supplement applies

Organised by Diamond Holidays (ABTA W0552)

York, Harrogate and the Yorkshire Dales

Four days departing April 8

PRICE FROM **£209**

- Return coach travel
- Three nights half-board accommodation
- Visits to Skipton, Harrogate and Haworth
- Full day in York
- Scenic coach tour of the Yorkshire Dales stopping at Grassington and Pateley Bridge
- Single rooms subject to availability - supplement applies

Organised by Diamond Holidays (ABTA W0552)

Welcome Back Flying Scotsman

Two days departing July 23

PRICE FROM **£99**

- Return coach travel
- Overnight half-board accommodation
- Visit to Locomotion, National Railway Museum to see Flying Scotsman
- Visit to Durham
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- Visit to St Paul's Catacombs
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Organised by Newmarket Air Holidays (ABTA V7812, ATOL 2325)

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Holland and Belgium in Bloom

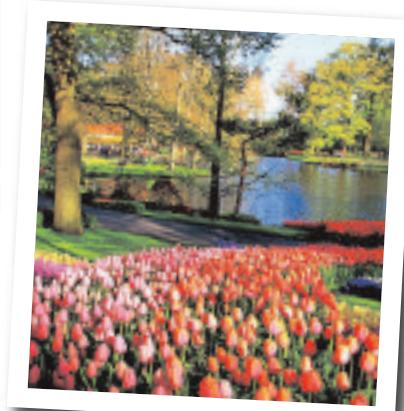
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fast theticket

The Vaccines

Wolverhampton gig
preview – Page 25



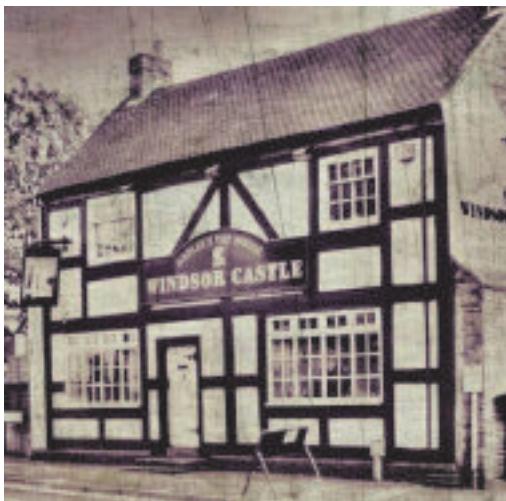
Dara O'Briain

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Thea Gilmore

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 Wolverhampton Wulfrun Hall,
 WV1 1RQ. 0870 320 7000

Reverend And The Makers

Mon at 7pm, £14
 Wolverhampton Wulfrun Hall,
 WV1 1RQ. 0870 320 7000

Sabbatage: Black Sabbath Tribute

Sun at 1pm, £8 - £12
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 Call 01902 401211

Nitin Sawhney

Wed at 7pm, £23.50
 The Institute, Digbeth,
 Birmingham, B5 6DY.
 Call 0121 643 0428

Les McKeown's Bay City Rollers

Thu at 8.45pm, £19.50 - £21
 The Robin 2, Bilston, WV14 7LJ.
 Call 01902 401211

Fidlar

Sun at 7pm, £15.50
 The Institute, Digbeth,
 Birmingham, B5 6DY.
 Call 0121 643 0428

Dressed To Kill: KISS Tribute

Fri at 7.30pm, £12 - £14
 The Robin 2, Bilston, WV14 7LJ.
 Call 01902 401211

Jimmy Buckley

Sun at 7.30pm, £20
 Prince Of Wales Centre,
 Cannock, WS11 1DE.
 Call 01543 578762

Will Young: Love Revolution

Mon at 7.30pm, £35 - £45
 Symphony Hall, Birmingham,
 B1 2EA. Call 0121 780 3333

Frank Turner And The Sleeping Souls

Wed at 7pm, £25
 O2 Academy Birmingham,
 B1 1DB. Call 0121 622 8250

The Vaccines

Tue at 7pm, £25
 Wolverhampton Civic Hall,
 WV1 1RQ. 0870 320 7000

Kelly Clarkson

Sat at 6pm, £30.20 - £40.20
 Genting Arena, Birmingham,
 B40 1NT.
 Call 0121 780 4141

The Straight Aces

Sat at 12am,
 Katie Fitzgerald's, Stourbridge,
 DY8 3TB. Call 01384 374410

Diversity



Fri, Sat, Sun, times vary

New Alex, B'ham

This tour by Britain's Got Talent winners Diversity will see the dance group performing exclusively choreographed routines based on their ITV special.
 Visit www.attickets.com

Bill Bailey



Wed, Thu, 7pm

Civic Hall, W'ton

The gap between how we imagine our lives to be and how they really are is the subject of Bill's new show Limboland which hits Wolverhampton next week.
 Visit www.wolvescivic.co.uk

Thea Gilmore



Wednesday, 8pm

Wulfrun Hall, W'ton

Thea Gilmore released her latest album Ghosts & Graffiti in May and so far it has proved to be the biggest selling album of her 15 album long career.
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The Quireboys

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 Wolverhampton Slade Rooms,
 WV1 1RQ. 0870 320 7000

Cast

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 Wolverhampton Slade Rooms,
 WV1 1RQ. 0870 320 7000

Pat Travers Band

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 Symphony Hall, Birmingham,
 B1 2EA. Call 0121 780 3333

The Lion The Witch And The Wardrobe

Thu at 7pm, £7.50 - £35
 Birmingham Repertory Theatre,
 B1 2EP. Call 0121 236 4455

Comedy 42

Sat at 7.30pm,
 Lichfield Garrick, WS13 6HR.
 Call 01543 412121

The Little Match Girl

Sat at 2pm, 7pm, £8 - £12
 Birmingham Hippodrome,
 B5 4TB. Call 0844 338 5000

Hairspray: Bilton Operatic Company

Fri at 7.30pm, Sat at 2.30pm,
 7.30pm, £8.50 - £19
 Wolverhampton Grand Theatre,
 WV1 1DE. Call 01902 573320

The Holy & Horned Farewell Tour

Sat at 7.30pm, £10.50 - £12.50
 Newhampton Arts Centre,
 Wolverhampton, WV1 4AN.
 Call 01902 572090

Last Night A DJ Saved My Life

Tue at 7.30pm, Wed at 7.30pm,
 Thu at 7.30pm, £17 - £54.14
 Wolverhampton Grand Theatre,
 WV1 1DE. Call 01902 573320

Calamity Jane: Redditch Operatic Society

Tue at 7.30pm, Wed at 7.30pm,
 Thu at 7.30pm,
 Palace Theatre, Redditch,
 B98 8AE. Call 01527 65203

The RAF In Concert 2015

Sun at 7.30pm, £19 - £25
 Symphony Hall, Birmingham,
 B1 2EA. Call 0121 780 3333

Welsh National Opera: Sweeney Todd: The Demon Barber Of Fleet Street

Thu at 7.15pm, from £11.50
 Birmingham Hippodrome,
 B5 4TB. Call 0844 338 5000

Welsh National Opera: Orlando

Wed at 7.15pm, from £11.50
 Birmingham Hippodrome,
 B5 4TB. Call 0844 338 5000

Welsh National Opera: I Puritani

Tue at 7.15pm, from £11.50
 Birmingham Hippodrome,
 B5 4TB. Call 0844 338 5000

Roy Chubby Brown

Sat at 7.30pm, £20 - £21
 Kidderminster Town Hall,
 DY10 1DB. Call 01562 732158

Dara O Briain: Crowd Tickler

Fri at 8pm - 10pm, Sat at 8pm -
 10pm, £23
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Hardeep Singh Kohli: Big Mouth Strikes Again

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 mac, Cannon Hill Road,
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 Call 0121 446 3232

Pam Ann: Queen Of The Sky

Thu at 8pm - 10pm,
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 New Alexandra Theatre,
 Birmingham, B5 4DS.
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Bill Bailey: Limboland

Wed at 7pm, Thu at 7pm,
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 Wolverhampton Civic Hall,
 WV1 1RQ.
 Call 0870 320 7000

Check out full listings in **the ticket** in Friday's Express & Star

Vaccines ready to rock the Civic

MILLION record selling rockers The Vaccines kick-off their biggest UK tour to date with a gig at Wolverhampton Civic Hall on Tuesday.

The indie band from London released their third album, English Graffiti, in May and have recently released Give Me A Sign as a single accompanied by a video inspired by spoof rock documentary Spinal Tap.

The outfit fronted by Southampton-born singer and guitarist Justin Young have toured the world with The Rolling Stones, Muse, Arctic Monkeys and Red Hot Chili Peppers, and performed at several major festivals over the summer including Glastonbury, Latitude and T in the Park. This week they are touring Australian stadia with Mumford And Sons.

Turn up early to catch Lambeth's raucous Palma Violets, who should get the Civic warmed up nicely.

Other gigs worth braving the November chill for: Liverpool's Cast are back with a new song Baby Blue Eyes and a gig for Britpop connoisseurs at Wolverhampton's Slade Rooms on Saturday. That's the same night inspired English art pop outfit Everything Everything, featuring the rapid-fire vocals of Jonathan Higgs, are at Brum's O2 Academy.

Former Public Image Ltd bassist Jah Wobble brings his Invaders Of The Heart to the Robin 2 in Bilston tonight (Thu). The same venue hosts Brit soul legends The Real Thing on Saturday, former members of Captain Beefheart's The Magic Band on Monday and on Tuesday Cherie Currie from US punk legends The Run-



The Vaccines with Palma Violets could be a gig of the year contender

aways. The Cherry Bomb singer is coming to the Black Country venue as part of her first UK tour in 35 years.

And a heads-up to the Tartan Army of 50something former teenyboppers, Lee McKeown brings his Bay City Rollers to the Robin 2 next Thursday, November 19, for a night of Shang-

A-Lang and Bye Bye Baby. More 70s sensations — drummer Roger Taylor's Queen extravaganza marks 40 years since A Night At The Opera with a sold out gig at Birmingham Town Hall on Monday and Steve Harley brings Cockney Rebel to Symphony Hall on Tuesday.

Brainy O'Briain is never boring

DARA O'BRIAIN may have become a household name through Mock The Week, The Apprentice: You're Fired! and Star Gazin' Live, but there's nothing he loves more than being in theatres to perform stand-up.

"The other day, I sat in an empty theatre thinking, 'I just love these rooms.' I'm on the board of the Theatres Trust to protect these wonderful buildings. I adore these places. It still gives me such a thrill to walk on stage. When you arrive at an empty theatre, the potential is immense. When the show starts and you hear those waves of laughter in the auditorium, it's a huge rush."

Though his show has toured the UK, when it reaches Birmingham, anything could happen: "I love the fact that you can shape the entire evening by thinking on your feet. It's like walking a tightrope."

A former maths and physics student at Dublin's prestigious Trinity University, Dara mixes comedy with science. He interviewed Professor Stephen Hawking this year. "His biggest regret was not being able to physically play with his children when they were little. I was happy that he was prepared to be that honest with me. I suppose when you're choosing your words as carefully as he does, why waste them on waffle?"

"It's great to tackle subjects that are more thought-provoking, but I have this dread that people will go 'Oh Dara's show - there'll be some bit where he bores us with some sci-ence thing'. Hopefully by then they're unable to talk because I have beaten them over the head with so much humour."

Dara O'Briain is at Birmingham Hippodrome tonight (Thu), tomorrow and Saturday.

'It's like walking a tightrope'



Hoff on his way with 1980s musical

TV legend David Hasselhoff will arrive in Wolverhampton next week as part of the world premiere tour of a new musical.

The former Baywatch and Knight Rider star will be appearing in Last Night A DJ Saved My Life from Tuesday to Saturday, November 21, at Wolverhampton Grand Theatre.

The production opened in Blackpool last month and audiences in Wolverhampton will be among the first to see The Hoff plays Ross, a hedonist DJ who does not realise the disco era is over. While trying to keep up with a younger girlfriend played by Hollyoaks star Kim Tiddy, matters are complicated by the arrival of his teenaged daughter.

Gershwin, Brel and Tchaikovsky

THE John Wilson Orchestra are on course to sell out their celebration of the musical genius of George Gershwin at Symphony Hall, Birmingham, tonight (Thu). Movie music maestro Wilson will present Gershwin's greatest hits in sumptuous original film orchestrations.

The music of France will be performed in the CBSO's Friday Night Classics concert La vie en rose, featuring tributes to Edith Piaf and Jacques Brel. Guest singers at Symphony Hall will include Graham Bickley. Tchaikovsky's Fourth Symphony and Beethoven's Violin Concerto, with Alina Ibragimova, feature in Wednesday's 2.15pm concert.

Opera is bringing musical madness

MADNESS descends upon Birmingham Hippodrome next week when Welsh National Opera's autumn season takes mental turmoil as its theme.

WNCO explore Madness with a new production of Bellini's I puritani on Tuesday, which charts the heroine Elvira's mental disintegration. Linda Richardson sings Elvira and celebrated bel canto tenor Barry Banks sings Arturo.

Handel's Orlando is performed on Wednesday with musical virtuosity as a metaphor for insanity. Countertenor Lawrence Zazzo is in the lead role and the opera is relocated to London during the Blitz.

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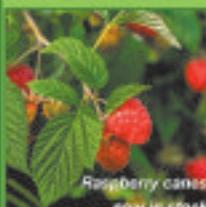
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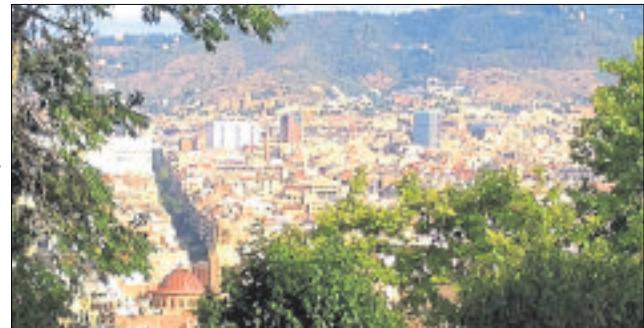
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View of the tree-lined La Rambla from Sants Montjuic



The Sagrada Familia, a large Roman Catholic church



Debbie stayed at the Barceló Sants hotel



The futuristic tower, Sants Montjuic

Father-daughter time is out of this world in super sci-fi hotel

A FAMILY holiday by the sea – a typical British summer pastime. But a mini break with dad when you're in your late 40s and he's late 60s?

My father and I can argue until blue in the face – but a love of sunshine, good food, a bit of architecture, and quite a lot of alcohol, I've sort of inherited from him.

Barcelona it is then. Dad declares it one of his favourite cities and has been there many times.

We're staying at Barceló Sants – a glass box of a hotel, a 20 minute train hop from the city's El Prat airport. The huge hotel is perched on top of the city's main railway station in the Sants district, a couple of miles from the historic centre, but surrounded by an abundance of shops and tavernas. The entrance to the recently-re-

By Debbie Bennett

furbished Barceló Sants is out of this world. Welcome aboard the 'space hotel' with its curved automatic glass doors, a circular internet hub, and giant images from sci-fi films high up beyond a wide staircase and gravity-defying mezzanine floor to the Orbital rooms and suites.

Our lovely twin room on the seventh floor overlooks the bustling district below. The restaurant too has a science theme, divided into three areas, the Oxygen buffet, the a-la-carte Hydrogen and chilled-out Nitrogen cafe.

Dad and I have booked three nights in sci-fi splendour, but head out into the warm July evening, exploring Sants. We chance upon the best paella we've ever tasted and guzzle sangria, before heading back to the hotel's Orbital bar, followed by some seri-

ous cyber sleep. Our two full days in heat-wave-hit Barcelona consist of exploring the sights, both on foot and on the fantastic Barcelona Bus Turistic. These sightseeing buses cover three routes, including the city's architecture-packed centre, taking in Antoni Gaudí's organic-style modernism masterpieces including Casa Milà and the still-unfinished Sagrada Família.

One bus takes us on a route unfamiliar even to dad. It's a delightful ascent along cool winding streets to the Sants Montjuic district where stops along the way give panoramic views of the city below, including its centrepiece – the famous tree-lined La Rambla, and the imposing mountains beyond. Parts of Sants Montjuic were created for the city's hosting of the Olympics in 1992. The stadiums, tracks and pools are still in use, guarded over by a sinuous futuristic 136m telecommunications tower. The

bus continues on down to the port where the blue Med glistens and pristine cruise ships wait in the harbour.

Dad and I have booked a little boat trip to escape the searing heat. The sightseeing bus stops near the small harbour of Port Olímpic where we meet David, our skipper for a couple of hours. Our vessel is a simple sailboat which holds no more than six people and the three of us have it all to ourselves. We head out to sea for about half a mile while David gives us a potted history of the city and of himself.

I get to swim, and dad gets to be captain before David serves up olives and Cava in between steering us back to port.

We crammed quite a lot into two days. We didn't get to visit all that Barcelona is famous for, but our galactic hotel, mini offshore adventure and that father-daughter time made sure it was truly memorable.

commercial feature

Money off deal as chef wins top title

Abdul Ahad is more used to creating and serving up plates of mouthwatering dishes for diners as head chef of the Shenapur restaurant in Hagley, but recently Abdul received a very special plate of his own.

Abdul won Regional Chef Of The Year in the Curry Life Chef Awards 2015.

Abdul's food is celebrated and loved by all who are lucky enough to experience it.

Specialising in traditional sub continental cuisine, predominantly from Bangladesh, Abdul follows a simple formula of high quality, masterfully spiced food, cooked fresh to order.

The Shenapur, which has a contemporary yet informal interior, has been serving up the finest Indian Cuisine in Hagley for more than 19 years and has become one of the most popular destinations in the West Midlands for Indian food lovers but Abdul's skills and creativity have raised the bar still further since his appointment as head chef earlier in the year.

Abdul has devoted 35 years to his craft, building on his knowledge and self-taught creativity.

He particularly loves cooking with fish and Shenapur's menu reflects this offering monkfish, salmon, sea bass and lobster which is bought fresh and cooked Bangladeshi style infused with spicy flavours.

Other signature dishes include meltingly tender lamb shank, tandoori Chicken norotoba cooked with minced meat herbs and spices and tellapuri bhuna, a traditional Bengal fish dish.

Shenapur's proprietor Angur Ali said: "Since Abdul's appointment we have seen a significant increase in diners as word has got around about our new



Shenapur owner Angur Ali with award-winning head chef Abdul Ahad

menu which, whilst retaining all the favourites which have made the restaurant so popular, has also introduced a fantastic new range of innovative and beautifully presented dishes to tantalize your taste buds."

Mr Ali added: "Abdul is very keen to demonstrate his unique culinary skills, flexibility and passion for Indian cooking and he and his team are happy to style any dish to suit

your personal taste.

"So if you are a regular diner with us, or are considering visiting for the first time to experience unforgettable food served up in an informal and friendly atmosphere, there has never been a better time to join us with a 10 per cent reduction against the cost of your meal on production of our advertisement.

"We hope to see you soon."

Shenapur

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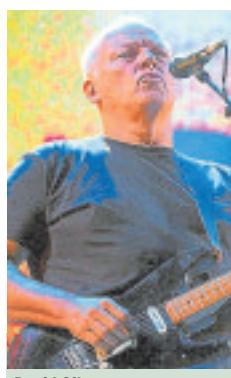
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CHOICE



David Gilmour

David Gilmour: Wider Horizons (BBC2, 9.45pm)

Not everybody wants to spend their entire lives doing one profession or activity. Even if you happen to be very good at something, and perhaps universally acclaimed for it, it can be useful to take a little time out to recharge your batteries or try a new pastime. It seems that David Gilmour has been doing just that for the past nine years. That's how long the former Pink Floyd guitarist was out of the music business before returning with his fourth solo album, Rattle That Lock, which was released in September; a tour to promote it is currently under way. This documentary examines Gilmour's life and career, and he's on hand to give candid insights into the key events that have shaped him.

BBC1

- 6.00 Breakfast.** **9.15 Saturday Kitchen** Live. **10.45** The Lord Mayor's Show.
12.10 Football Focus. **12.45** Rugby League. England v New Zealand (Kick-off 1.00pm). **3.10 Formula 1:** The Brazilian Grand Prix – Qualifying. The battle for pole after a late drama in São Paulo (Start-time 4.00pm). **5.20** Children in Need 2015. The Best Bits.
6.30 News.
6.40 Regional Programme.
6.50 Strictly Come Dancing. The nine couples step out onto the dance floor once again as the pro-celebrity dance competition draws closer to its finale. As ever, the stars are hoping to impress judges Len Goodman, Darcey Bussell, Bruno Tonioli and Craig Revel Horwood – as well as viewers at home – with the carefully plotted routines they've been working on throughout the week. However, there is added pressure this evening, as not only will winning over the panel help the competitors secure a place in the next round, but it will also provide them with a chance to dance at the celebrated Blackpool Tower Ballroom next weekend.
8.15 Doctor Who. Video recovered from the wreckage of Le Verrier Space Station details how the Doctor and Clara became entangled in a deadly rescue mission. With Reece Shearsmith.
9.00 Casualty. A violent alteration at the ambulance station, forces Alicia to treat a patient in the back of a van, and Jacob turns vigilante as he tracks the police officer who shot him.
9.50 The National Lottery Live. Adil Ray, creator and star of Citizen Khan, joins Gabby Roslin for the all-important draw at Lottery HQ.
10.00 BBC News: Weather.
10.20 MOTD Special: David Beckham's Match for Children. Highlights of UNICEF's "match for children" at Old Trafford, which saw David Beckham captain a Great Britain and Ireland XI versus a Rest of the World team led by Zinedine Zidane; National Lottery Update.
11.00 Film: Pirates of the Caribbean: The Curse of the Black Pearl. (2003) Swashbuckling fantasy adventure, starring Johnny Depp and Orlando Bloom.
11.10 Weather for the Week Ahead. 1.15 BBC News.

BBC2

- 6.15 Film:** Henry VIII and His Six Wives. (1972) 8.15 Formula 1: Brazilian Grand Prix – Practice One. **10.05 Formula 1:** Brazilian Grand Prix – Practice Two. **11.55 F1 Review:** Great Results!
1.00 Formula 1: Brazilian Grand Prix – Coverage from Interlagos.
2.05 Film: The Red Shoes. (1948) Powell and Pressburger's drama, starring Moira Shearer. **4.15** Terry and Mason's Great Food Trip. (R) **4.45** Escape to the Country. (R) **5.30** Flots! It! (R)
6.30 The Great Pottery Throw Down. In Stoke-on-Trent, nine potters have made decorative hand basins, as well as add a surface design to plain tiles for judges Kate Malone and Keith Brymer Jones. They are also challenged to throw the tallest cylinder they can while blindfolded. Sara Cox presents. (R)
7.30 Great Continental Railway Journeys. Michael Portillo embarks on a Greek odyssey from the Athens port of Piraeus, north to the city of Thessaloniki, exploring the Acropolis and sampling moussaka and baklava. (R)
8.30 Dad's Army. Captain Mainwaring is determined that all his men should be well-shod and have battle-worthy feet, so he starts a regimen involving lengthy route marches. (R)
9.00 QI XL. Stephen Fry invites David Mitchell, Sue Perkins and Sam Shah to join regular panellist Alan Davies as he meanders about some places that start with the letter M.
9.45 David Gilmour: Wider Horizons. Documentary offering an intimate portrait of the former Pink Floyd guitarists, as he returns to his solo career after a nine-year break with the release of his fourth album, Rattle that Lock, and an accompanying world tour. The film provides insights into Gilmour's professional and personal life, as he muses on the events that have shaped him as both a person and a musician.
11.00 Film: The Last Station. (2009) The private secretary to the ageing Tolstoy is caught up in the conflict over who owns the writer's legacy. Period drama, with James McAvoy, Christopher Plummer and Helen Mirren.
12.45 Jackpot247. **3.00 Show Me the Telly.** (R) **3.50 ITV Nightscreen.** **2.30 This is BBC Two.**

ITV

- 6.00 CITV:** Bottom Knocker Street. **6.10** Bottom Knocker Street. (R) **6.25** Bottom Knocker Street. (R) **6.35** Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) **6.50** Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) **7.00** Signed Stories: Share a Story. (R) **7.05** Oddbods. (R) **7.30** Doozy. (R) **7.25** Sunz. (R) **7.40** Adventure Time. **8.00** Marvel Avengers Assemble. **8.30** Thunderbirds Are Go. **9.00** Jessie. **9.25** Murder, She Wrote. (R) **10.20** Countrywise. (R) **10.50** ITV News: Weather. **10.55** The Jeremy Kyle Show USA. (R) **11.50** Downton Abbey. (R) **1.25** Judge Rinder. (R) **2.20** All Star Family Fortunes. (R) **3.05** Doc Martin. (R) **4.05** Film: Scooby-Doo. (2002) Live-action comedy adventure, starring Sarah Michelle Gellar. **4.45** Regional Programme: Weather.
6.00 ITV News: Weather.
6.15 Catchphrase. Stephen Mulhern hosts the game show, asking contestants Annette Davies, Jamie Walker and Leah Clemento to guess the familiar phrases hidden in animated clues.
7.00 The Chase: Celebrity Special. Dr Christian Jessen, Jill Gill, Helen Lederer and Stephen Hendry join forces to take on the Chaser and secure a cash prize for charity. Presented by Bradley Walsh.
8.00 The X Factor. The number of hopeful stars continues to dwindle as more acts are eliminated from the contest. Tonight, Caroline Flack and Olly Murs present as the remaining contestants face their third live show, in which they must once again demonstrate their talent to judges Simon Cowell, Cheryl Fernandez-Versini, Nick Grimshaw and Rita Ora, in the hopes of surviving another round.
9.45 The Jonathan Ross Show. Real Madrid footballer Cristiano Ronaldo, actress, model and singer Agyness Deyn and former Doctor Who star David Tennant join Jonathan in the studio.
10.50 ITV News: Weather.
11.10 Euro 2016 Play-Off Highlights. Richard亨wood presents action from the first-leg matches, including Bosnia-Herzegovina v Republic of Ireland at Bilino Polje Stadium.
11.55 River Monsters. Jeremy Wade visits tourist hot spots in America. (R)

CHANNEL 4

- 6.15 How I Met Your Mother.** (R) **7.05** How I Met Your Mother. (R) **7.30** River Rat Race Stockton. **7.55** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **8.30** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **9.00** The Big Bang Theory. **10.00** Fraser. (R) **10.30** Frasier. (R) **11.00** The Big Bang Theory. **11.30** The Big Bang Theory. **12.30** The Simpsons. (R) **1.00** The Simpsons. (R) **1.30** Channel 4 Racing. Live coverage from Cheltenham and Wetherby. **4.00** Come Dine with Me. (R) **4.25** Come Dine with Me. (R) **5.00** Come Dine with Me. (R) **5.30** Come Dine with Me. (R)
6.05 Come Dine with Me. Chris Sheppard hosts the final dinner party in Worcestershire, impressing his guests with his home-made sweet chilli sauce and potato towers before the winner is announced. (R)
6.30 Channel 4 News.
7.00 The Restoration Man. Inexperienced developer Gareth Williams seeks help from George Clarke as he works to convert a disused Victorian church in Llanreathen, Pembrokeshire. With a tight budget that forces him to buy supplies from an online auction site, and a huge amount of red tape resulting from the surrounding graveyard, the stress begins to take its toll on the builder's family. (R)
8.00 Grand Designs. Kevin returns to north Cornwall to see one of his favourite Grand Designs, and discover whether Rebecca Sturmark and Gregory Kewish have been successful with their ambitious plan. (R)
9.00 Film: The Inbetweeners 2. (2014) Premier: Awkward teenagers Will, Simon and Neil find university life does not live up to their expectations, and are insanely jealous of Jay's stories of his gap year in Australia. Heading Down Under to meet their friend, they inevitably discover he has exaggerated his escapades. Comedy sequel, starring Simon Bird, James Buckley, Joe Thomas and Blake Harrison.
10.55 Film: American Reunion. (2012) Comedy sequel to the American Pie movies, with Jason Biggs and Alyson Hannigan.
1.05 Fargo. (R) **2.00** Alan Carr: Chatty Man. (R) **2.55** Hollyoaks. (R) **5.05** Deal or No Deal: Double Trouble: Siblings Special. (R) **5.50** Food Unwrapped. (R)

CHANNEL 5

- 6.00 Milkshake!** **9.00** The Saturday Show. **11.00** Film: Trading Santa. (2013) Festive drama, starring Dean Cain. **12.50** Film: Trading Christmas. (2011) Romantic comedy, starring Faith Ford and Brian Benben. **2.30** Film: Farewell Mr Kringle. (2010) Christmas drama, with Christine Taylor. **4.20** Film: Dear Santa. (2011) Romantic comedy, starring Amy Acker and David Haydn-Jones.
6.05 5 News Weekend.
6.10 Film: Kelly's Heroes. (1970) A retelling of American Soldiers fighting to recapture France learns from a captive German officer the whereabouts of a fortune in Nazi gold. Recruiting the aid of three fellow soldiers, he puts together a daring plan to penetrate enemy lines to get their hands on the bullion. Second World War adventure, starring Clint Eastwood, Telly Savalas, Donald Sutherland, Don Rickles and Harry Dean Stanton. Edited for language.
9.00 Football League Tonight. Kelly Cates and George Riley present extended highlights of the weekend's top matches, including Gillingham v Bury at Priestfield Stadium and Rochdale v Wigan Athletic at Spotland in League One. Plus, a round-up of the main talking points, and interviews with a selection of players and managers.
10.00 Live Championship Boxing. Nick Blackwell v Elliott Matthews. Mark Pougatch presents coverage of the bout for the British Middleweight title, which takes place at the City Academy in Bristol.
12.00 Ben Fogle: New Lives in the UK. Ben Fogle meets people who have escaped the rat race for a more rewarding life elsewhere in the UK, beginning with a London family who moved to rural Devon. (R) **12.55** The Godfather. (1972) **1.00** Film: The Godfather. (1972) **1.30** Film: The Godfather. (1972) **2.00** Film: Transporter 3 (2008) **11.05** The Inbetweeners 20 Top Moments **12.05** Gogglebox 2. **15.15** The Inbetweeners 3. **1.10** My Neighbour Totoro (1988) **1.00** St Trinian's (2007) **3.00** Scrooged (1988) **5.00** Catch That Kid (2004) **6.45** Starman (1984) **9.00** Legion (2013) **1.10** Shaolin Soccer (2001) **3.30** Close

DIGITAL

- BBC Three**
7.00 Don't Tell the Bride **8.00** Top Gear **9.00** Film: Blades of Glory (2007) **10.30** Russell Howard's Good News **11.00** Family Guy **1.15** Josh **1.45** The Fear 2.15 Together **3.45** Great Movie Mistakes V: Revenge of the Fifth **4.00** Close
- ITV2**
7.00 Lost Land of the Tiger **8.00** Horizon: The Core **9.00** Armie Hammer **11.00** Rod Stewart at the BBC **12.00** Rod Stewart Live at Hyde Park **1.00** Top of the Pops 1977: Big Hits **2.00** Singer-Songwriters at the BBC **3.00** Lost Land of the tiger **4.00** Close
- ITV1**
11.15 Tricked **12.15** Scorpion **1.15** I'm a Celeb: Junglejungle Moments **2.15** Funniest Ever You've Been Framed! **3.15** You've Been Framed! **3.50** Celebrity Catchphrase **4.50** Film: Nim's Island (2008) **6.45** Film: Kingdom of Coo **10.00** Film: 2 Fast 2 Furious (2003) **11.10** Celebrity Juice **1.15** Release the Hounds **1.00** Tricked **1.55** Crazy Beaches **2.15** totally Bonkers Guinness World Records **2.30** Animal Practice **2.55** Teleshopping **5.55** ITV2 Nightscreen **ITV4**
12.45 Touch of Frost **2.50** Agatha Christie's Marple **4.50** Film: Columbo: Trimmed Waters (1975) **5.55** Doc Martin **8.00** Midsummer Murders **10.00** Lewis **12.05** A Touch of Frost **2.00** ITV3 Nightscreen **2.30** Teleshopping
- E4**
11.35 The Goldbergs **12.30** Melissa & Joey **1.30** How I Met Your Mother **2.30** Brooklyn Nine-Nine **3.00** The Goldbergs **4.00** Film: The Spy Next Door (2010) **6.00** The Big Bang Theory **9.55** Film: Transporter 3 (2008) **11.05** The Inbetweeners 20 Top Moments **12.05** Gogglebox 2. **15.15** The Inbetweeners 3. **1.10** My Neighbour Totoro (1988) **1.00** St Trinian's (2007) **3.00** Scrooged (1988) **5.00** Catch That Kid (2004) **6.45** Starman (1984) **9.00** Legion (2013) **1.10** Shaolin Soccer (2001) **3.30** Close
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CHOICE

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **8.20 MOTD Special:** David Beckham's Match for Children. (R)

9.00 The Andrew Marr Show. **10.00** Sunday Morning Live. **11.00 Homes Under the Hammer.** (R) **12.00 Bargain Hunt.** (R) **1.00 BBC News;** Weather. **1.15 Escape to the Country.** (R) **1.45 Songs of Praise.** **2.20 The Hunt.** (R) **3.20 Formula 1:** Brazilian Grand Prix.

6.00 News.**6.10 Regional Programme.**

6.20 Countryfile. Ellie Harrison reports on new farming developments in Frome, Somerset and samples some of the local produce. Plus, a look back at some memorable moments from past series. Including Weather For the Week Ahead.

7.20 Strictly Come Dancing: The Results. Tess Daly and Claudia Winkleman present the results of last night's show, before the two lowest scoring couples compete in a dance-off to avoid elimination from the contest.

8.00 Antiques Roadshow. Fiona Bruce presents the show from Walmer castle, Kent, where finds include a rare pottery piglet, a revolving table with secret compartments, and a British PoW's diary.

9.00 The Hunt. The challenges predators face finding and catching prey in a forest, featuring footage of tigers, pine martens, sparrowhawks, eagles and chimpanzees. Narrated by David Attenborough.

10.00 BBC News.**10.20 Regional Programme.**

10.30 Mrs Brown's Boys. Agnes tries to persuade the health visitor Grandad is in need of respite care – so she can go on holiday – and receives ominous news from beyond the grave from her late husband. (R)

11.00 Room 101 – Extra Storage. Frank Skinner invites comedienne Sue Perkins, Strictly Come Dancing judge Bruno Tonioli and TV host Steve Jones to discuss their pet hates. Last in the series. (R)

11.40 The Apprentice. The candidates travel to a south London builder's yard, where Lord Sugar challenges them to set up and run and handyman business with the winning team generating the most money. (R)

12.40 Weather for the Week Ahead.
12.45 BBC News.

FILM CHOICES

MONDAY

Meet the Parents, BBC1, 10.45pm

A male nurse delays proposing to his girlfriend until he has won the approval of her strict father, a former CIA agent who does not suffer fools gladly, and vows to be on his best behaviour during a visit to her family home. However, his efforts to impress soon collapse into a catalogue of disasters. Comedy, starring Robert De Niro, Ben Stiller and Owen Wilson. (2000)

TUESDAY

The Invisible, BBC1, 12.05am

A teenager attacked and left for dead is left hovering between life and death, and tries to persuade his assailant to confess. Thriller, with Justin Chatwin and Marcia Gay Harden. (2007)

WEDNESDAY

Oranges and Sunshine, BBC1, 11.35pm

A social worker discovers that, over several decades, thousands of British children have been falsely informed their parents are dead and been forcibly sent to homes in Australia, where they suffered terrible abuse. She devotes herself to exposing the scandal and helping the victims to find their families. Fact-based drama, with Emily Watson. (2010)



Meet the Parents, Monday, BBC1, 10.45pm

THURSDAY

The Wild Geese, Channel 5, 10pm

A corporation hoping to bring about the downfall of an African dictator hires a group of British mercenaries to free a political prisoner dangerous to the regime. However, when the company changes its plans and makes a deal with the tyrant, the soldiers and the man they have saved are left surrounded by hostile military forces with no escape route. Action adventure, starring Richard Burton and Roger Moore. (1978)

FRIDAY

The Eiger Sanction, ITV, 11.15pm

An art professor who once worked as an assassin is blackmailed into returning to his old career to eliminate a spy. However, his target is in the middle of a mountaineering expedition, forcing the hitman to embark on a perilous climb up the Eiger in hot pursuit. Action adventure, directed by and starring Clint Eastwood. With George Kennedy. (1975)

Celebrities get ready to face their fears

The dark nights are drawing in, and most of us would love the chance to get away for a few weeks, leave the autumn chill behind and find some sunshine.

So how does a fortnight in the Australian jungle sound? Actually, second thoughts – don't go there!

As well as the bugs, snakes and other creepy crawlies, you will most likely bump into some highly-strung reality TV stars arguing over a grain of rice or eating fish eyes seasoned with termites.

Yes, it's that time of year again folks, so hold on to your cork hats as I'm a Celebrity Get Me Out of Here! is back and promising to be as good as, if not better, than ever.

If the rumours are to be believed, this year is going to be even tougher for the stars.

A whole host of new Bush Tucker trials have been revealed, including Sun Screen, which involves contestants smearing gruesome concoctions, including bugs and fish guts, over each others' skin.

And then there are sheep's testicles to deal with. This trial apparently works like a normal limbo, but as the celebrities bend under the cane, they have to have 10 sheep testicles dangled in their mouths.

The food in the eating challenges has apparently stepped up a notch as well, with dishes of the day including duck feet, cow lips, bush pig semen, camel penis porridge, boiled sheep testicles and rat tail soup.

It may only feel like only yesterday that Gemma Collins was crying mascara stained tears while complaining of contracting malaria and Carl Fogarty was being crowned King of the Jungle.

However, the rumour mill has gone into overdrive, as members of the public (and bookies) attempt to guess who will fly out to the Land of Oz.

Labour MP Simon Danczuk, athlete Iwan Thomas, TV chef Rustie Lee, choreographer Brian Friedman, X Factor reject Chloe Mafua, Emmerdale actress Gemma Oaten, and TV personality and retired athlete Caitlyn Jenner (formerly Bruce Jenner) are

some of the names being bandied about.

It has also been reported by one newspaper that Watchdog and The Weakest Link host Anne Robinson has been offered £750,000 to take part, while glamour model Katie Price, who has already appeared twice on the ITV show, in 2004 and 2009, is fancied to make it a jungle hat-trick.

But arguably the most interesting name rumoured to be making an appearance is... Paul Gascoigne.

Gazza is one of the finest footballers this country has ever produced, but has more recently tended to hit the headlines for all the wrong reasons, mainly due to his battle with the bottle and turbulent love life.

Two stars who definitely won't be eating witchetty grubs this year though are Gazza's fellow Geordies Ant and Dec, who quickly shot down any rumours that they would become contestants for the first time.

Dec replied to a fan on Twitter with the words Absolutely NO chance. Zero. Zip. Nada. None. Nope. Stop it."



I'm a Celebrity Get Me Out of Here!, Sunday, ITV, 9pm

BEST OF THE REST

MONDAY

Simply Nigella**BBC2, 8.30pm**

Food writer Nigella Lawson demonstrates dishes that combine the comfort of the familiar with the excitement of the new, including fluffy oat pancakes drizzled with a raspberry and honey syrup. She offers a twist on a classic Caesar salad for a light lunch idea, and rustles up a Greek-inspired supper for friends including squid and orzo pasta, and a sweet and savoury version of a cheesecake. Nigella's simple rice bowl with ginger, radish and avocado celebrates a few choice ingredients and results in a dish that's uplifting to look at, as well as to eat.

TUESDAY

Live International Football**ITV, 7.30pm**

England v France (Kick-off 8.00pm). Coverage of the friendly encounter at Wembley Stadium, as the Three Lions take on the hosts of next year's European Championship. Roy Hodgson's men came through an admittedly favourable qualifying group with 10 wins out of 10 – the only country to finish with a 100 per cent record. The French didn't need to qualify for the tournament, so they will see this match as an important step toward their

preparations for the summer. Head coach Didier Deschamps captained the team that won the trophy in 2000, two years after lifting the World Cup on home soil, and his already legendary status could be cemented if he leads the current squad to victory at the Stade de France in July. Mark Pougatch presents, with analysis from Paul Scholes, Lee Dixon and Ian Wright.

WEDNESDAY

Toast of London**Channel 4, 10.30pm**

New series. Live on chat show Lorriane, Steven tells a tale that could topple the US government and destroy the entire world, while Jane tries to evade the men in black. Plus, Toast is overcome with a debilitating bout of stage fright when he discovers an outdoor performance of The Scottish Play, directed by acclaimed theatrical director Peggy Plywood, will be broadcast live on ITV. Although Ed and Mrs P are on hand to help, it may take someone with more gusto to shake him out of it. Matt Berry stars.



Doctor in the House, Thursday, BBC1, 9pm

THURSDAY

Doctor in the House**BBC1, 9pm**

New series. Families worried about their health invite a GP to move in and investigate their lives in the hope he can transform their lifestyles and ensure their future wellbeing. First up is 48-year-old working mother Priti, who is struggling with stress, headaches, weight gain and disrupted sleep. Dr Rangan Chatterjee moves in to monitor the situation – and soon realises it is actually her partner, 49-year-old

Sandeep, whose health is more at risk. The doctor draws up a plan of lifestyle changes, before they are measured on how much of an impact the resident medic has had on their health.

Ben Fogle: New Lives in the UK**Channel 5, 9pm**

Ben Fogle meets people who have escaped the rat race for a more

rewarding life elsewhere in the UK. This week he travels to Wales to meet 61-year-old Emma Orbach, who abandoned 'modern' Britain, her family home and even her marriage to live in a mud hut deep in the countryside, where she spurns all forms of technology and convenience. Unfortunately, her hut burned down last year, so Ben helps build a new one while also helping to collect wood, washing in the river and enjoying her only luxury - a home-made sauna.

FRIDAY

Adele at the BBC**BBC1, 8.30pm**

Much of the narrative surrounding the launch of Adele's latest single, Hello, has focused on her use of a hilariously outdated flip-phone in the accompanying video. However the fact that there is such a narrative is testament to the singer-songwriter's popularity. Do you think anyone other than his network provider cares what phone Steve Brookstein uses? Yes, with Hello dialling in first-week sales of 333,000 (A three-year UK record), the Tottenham songstress is a big deal. This special one-off performance, then, which sees her take the stage with her full band as well as chatting to host Graham Norton, is well worth catching – especially since it's her first television performance since February 2013.

CHRONICLE



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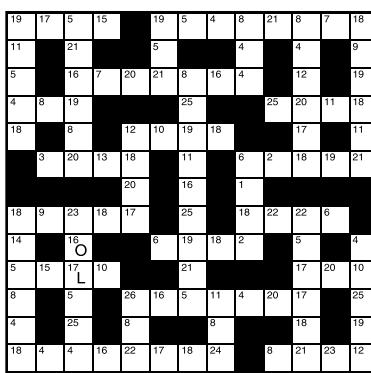
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BRAIN GYM

No.351

Codeword

Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter(s) to the right of the main grid to start you off.



LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION:

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
I	Q	J	X	E	V	Y	A	L	T	G	F	U	O	K	W	H	M	P	C	B	R	N	S		

Quiz

- How many U.S. presidents have been called Adams?
- Who wrote Love and Mr. Lewisham?
- In what year was the Turner wing in the London Tate Gallery opened?
- Between what years was the Spanish Civil War fought?
- What was the seventh month of the Old Roman calendar?
- What is a John Dory?
- What is ambergris?
- What is the atomic number of carbon?
- Who do you associate with the phrase 'Cogito, ergo sum'?
- What was William Cody better known as?

Last week's solutions:

- Quiz: 1 John Selwyn Gummer; 2 The Balearic Islands; 3 Breadfruit; 4 1949; 5 Cana; 6 1976; 7 Aldo Moro; 8 James Boswell; 9 Denmark; 10 Zambia.

Niner: FACTORIES

Niner

Each number from 1 to 9 represents a different letter. Solve the clues and insert the letters in the appropriate squares to discover a word which uses all nine letters.

762123 gives a sailor,
435238 gives a child,
5998123 gives a servant.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

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Double Crossword

Choose either quick or cryptic clues - both fit the same grid.

Cryptic Clues:

Across

- Crucial examination for detective force appearing in a trial (4,4)
- Got back a classical piece of attire (4)
- More than one mischief-maker is surrounding the politician (4)
- Try a seal for old time's sake (4,4)
- A publication for the family (5)
- Steelworks discovered near the railway (7)
- Fails to keep calm and gets axed (5,4,4)
- Being warlike, I fired in army manoeuvre (8)
- A style on holiday (4)
- One isn't upset by stress (7)
- See 2 Down
- Did artistic work and proved an attraction (4)
- Being informed about judicial proceedings (7)
- In a wicked setting she is put to shame (7)
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Stability a key to success

By John Griffiths

Three wheels on my wagon . . . and I'm rolling along quite happily, thank you.

Piaggio's MP3, a range of three-wheeled scooters with 300 or 500cc four-stroke engines, attracts many a curious glance because it is an unusual sight on our roads.

Perhaps that's because we're not so scooter-orientated here as our cousins on the continent, where they make up quite a proportion of city traffic. In fact, it's Europe's biggest seller.

Why? Well for a start it can be ridden on a standard car licence, because it falls in the same class as a Reliant Robin, and for those coming from the world of four wheelers it's rather less daunting than an ordinary, 13in wheel two-wheeled scooter because of its inherent stability.

It's also cheap enough to run (80mpg plus and £38 a year VED) and, crucially, it's narrow enough to filter through traffic jams like a conventional bike, unlike some of the more familiar trikes with two wheels at the rear.

Then there's that very clever tilting front end developed by Piaggio which has a number of dynamic advantages.

The MP3 feels more stable over bumpy roads than a two-wheeled scooter, and corners like a conventional bike - capable of some pretty extreme lean angles limited mainly by the risk of grounding the centre stand's foot lever.

It looks strange if you're watching someone else tackling a bend, but perfectly natural if you're in the saddle.

Meanwhile the steering/suspension system ensures both front wheels stay in contact with the road. That, by its nature, means additional grip which also comes into play when you're braking, and the MP3 has discs on all three wheels so braking is sure and stable.

Just as the MP3 was the first three-wheeled scooter, these new models are the first to come with anti-lock brakes and traction control which prevent the single, powered rear wheel from slipping in the wet. The new disc brakes are bigger, too, for a little extra stopping power.

The 300 has a conventional 'twist and go' transmission

with centrifugal clutch and continuously variable transmission which does dampen its acceleration performance a little but makes urban riding effortless. But on the open road it will reach 70mph in short order and sit there quite happily on a dual carriageway.

The four-stroke engine turns out 23.1bhp and 24.3Nm of torque and is liquid cooled: the machine itself is so quiet you can hear the hum of the cooling fan if you're stuck in slow traffic.

The extra stability provided by the third wheel was, for me, particularly welcome at slow speeds around town which is where this MP3 is expected to spend much of its life. Clue – it's called the 'Yourban'.

Balanced

The twin suspension can be locked into the upright position by means of a switch on the right handlebar. This means the MP3 can be parked without using the centre stand, and it has a handbrake too. I did use the stand, though (I always prefer the belt and braces approach) especially as the machine is surprisingly well balanced so only requires a little foot pressure on the stand lever.

Some riders use the same system at traffic lights and junctions so they don't have to put a foot down (the lock is automatically released as you open the throttle to move off). However the subconscious side of my brain which is conditioned to riding two-wheelers proved difficult to overcome on relatively short acquaintance with the MP3.

Regular scooter riders will appreciate the weather protection afforded by the tall front shield, and on top of that there's a new height-adjustable windshield.

The seat is sumptuous and beautifully shaped for comfort for both the rider and pillion passenger. Underneath, there's a 50 litre 'boot' capable of taking two full-face helmets, and it's even equipped with a light and 12-volt power socket. One of the optional extras is a dedicated multimedia system which allows you to link a smartphone to the Piaggio's electronics, to provide comprehensive trip information as well as a satnav system.

The MP3 also has a pull-out bag hook, plus a draw with USB connection designed for keeping your phone charged. There are two versions of the Yourban, the 'Business' and



the test bike, the 'Sport' which appeared well put together and trimmed with chrome and high gloss black plastic.

Bigger five-spoke alloy wheels (up from 12 to 13in) and LED daytime running lights are part of the complete cosmetic redesign for the new models, as are the new handlebars and the full set of modern electronic instruments: speedo, rev counter, clock and trip computer and, usefully, an ice alarm.

Also new are the anti-impact pads in front of the rider's knees, plus a parcel holder and grab handles for the pillion rider at the rear.

At £6,134 for the 300cc Yourban, the MP3 isn't cheap compared to some rival commuter transport such as, for example, a 250cc bike or more conventional maxi scooter.

But, when it invented those clever forks and suspension of the tilting front end, Piaggio created a whole new market sector. These new models go further along that road, with the addition of disc brakes, traction control and ABS, plus decent luggage capacity and comprehensive instruments.

I'm not sure about experienced bikers, but the highest card in its winning hand is its confidence-inspiring extra stability and ease of use over conventional rivals. This has clearly proved to be the deciding factor for the 150,000 Europeans – the majority probably car drivers – who have switched to a cheaper, quicker form of commuter transport.

It's as different to a conventional bike as it is to a car, but for non-riders contemplating buying one I'd advise a few hours passing your CBT would be well spent.

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Check out the folds in Juke

Celebrating the model's fifth anniversary, and its market-leading sales of over 700,000, Nissan and a British paper artist have collaborated on a unique project to create a full-scale Origami Juke.

In a nod to Nissan's Japanese heritage and inspired by the very first steps of car design – getting ideas onto paper – artist Owen Gildersleeve hand built the intricate replica model from paper to the exact dimensions of the current Juke.

It took more than 200 hours and folded more than 2,000 pieces of paper to create the detailed sculpture.

The Origami Juke features the same bold design cues – such as the wheel fenders, lights and grille – that give the real-life model its distinctive character.

Artist Owen Gildersleeve said: "This was a great project to work on – hard

work but very rewarding. As a celebration piece it draws on so many influences, such as the origami focus inspired by Nissan's Japanese roots. Using so many individual pieces of paper to create the overall structure also represents the thousands of people who helped bring the Nissan Juke into reality and the thousands who continue to do so right here in the UK."

The Nissan Juke's bold, standout styling has been a key factor in the model's success. Nissan created a brand new 'compact crossover' sector with the launch of the car, offering motorists something completely different, in terms of design, to any other vehicle on the road.

The Juke, which is built in Nissan's plant in Sunderland, reaches its fifth birthday this year.

Since first deliveries began in October 2010, more than 150,000 Juke models have been sold in the UK alone, with over 700,000 total sales across Europe, making it the continent's best-selling compact crossover.

The Juke's longer-term future in Britain was recently secured when Nissan confirmed that the Sunderland plant would produce the next-generation Juke benefiting from a further £100 million investment in the Sunderland facility and securing the plant into 2020.

Darryl Scriven, design manager at Nissan's Design Centre for Europe, said: "The first step of any car design involves putting pencil to paper. From that simple start, it's a complex journey to production involving hundreds of skilled people, thousands of man-hours and millions in investment. So we think it's very apt that on its fifth birthday, we celebrate the Nissan Juke with a tribute that harks back to that simple, but bold, first step, all carried out with Nissan's signature innovation and excitement of course."

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LADY, young looking 57, working full-time, very fit and active, looking for a male of similar age for friendship or maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 419725

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FRANCES, 45, busty female, loves nights in/out, seeking uncomplicated male who can occupy me free time for quality companionship. Tel: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 420003 □

CHRISTINA, curly beauty, 27yrs, own home, very adventurous, seeks no strings fun and frolics. Tel: 0906 515 4293 Box 410127

FEMALE, seeks fun loving male who likes a drink and a laugh, to enjoy erotic experiences with a curvy blonde. Discretion guaranteed. Text only to Mailbox no: 5079311

MAUREEN, discreet sensual lady, 42yrs seeks daytime fun at her home. ACA: Tel: 0906 515 4275 Box: 405297

MARY, pretty, friendly, lots of fun, lives in Kidderminster, loves the theatre, opera, ballet, WLTM a lovely, charming, funny, genuine guy, 30s, to settle down with. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 419883 □

ATTRACTIVE solvent business woman, 36yrs, seeks discreet gent any age for no strings discreet fun. ACA: Tel: 0906 515 4693 Box 419701

FEMALE fun blonde attractive, 26, seeking male for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 416287

LOUISE, pretty hairdresser, works long hours, finds it hard to meet a boyfriend, 34yrs, own flat. Text only to Mailbox no: 4192572

LOU, 45, lives in Shrewsbury, WLTM a lady between 42-49 with blue eyes, must be kind, caring and funny to mend my broken heart, someone who likes to curl up on the sofa for cozy nights in. Tel: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 419855 □

JENNI, single mum seeks single dad, own home, can accommodate and loves spoiling her man. Text only to Mailbox no: 4115108

FREYA 24yr old single mum, looking for male for free time frolics, call me if you're interested, it could be fun! Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 419851 □

LISA 38 slim attractive blonde, looking for a man who will appreciate a feminine, fashionable, fun, romantic sensual woman with a mind of her own. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 419858 □

PAT 66, attractive, N/S, likes reading, nights out, seeks gent for friendship, days out and more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 418277 □

68YR old widow, attractive, sees sincere, N/S male, likes reading, meals out and walks. West Midlands. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 414773

JULIA 47, looking for genuine, reasonably attractive male friend, may to lead to more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 419695 □

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MALE seeks affectionate, tactile, no drama, down to earth woman for nights in/out and loads of cuddles. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 418695 □

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PETE 47, enjoys walking, meals out, seeks female, age/looks/status unimportant, with similar interests for adult fun text only. Text only to Mailbox no: 5063152

ADVENTUROUS 35y old, slim, dark hair, likes music, cycling and photography, seeks female for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 419283 □

COLIN 63, lorry driver, 5'10", blue eyes, kind hearted, romantic, hobbies include growing fuchsias for showing and I have a vintage tractor that I play with from time to time. Looking for similar who's up for a lot of fun. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 418463 □

Men seeking women

Men seeking women

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DARREN, 44, slim build, dark brown hair, green eyes, seeks genuine female for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 418080 □

ALAN, 56 year old builder, muscular build, five foot ten, fit, likes the gym, pub, clubs and days out, seeks female with similar interests. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 419975 □

JACKIE lonely and looking for male friend, 48-65. Need a bit of love and affection? Then I'm your girl, call me. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 418169 □

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TIM, easygoing honest male, discreet, uninhibited, seeks similar non-conformist average attractive, N/S female up to 65. Nots. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 737065

PAUL 50yrs, Birmingham, with own house and own car, I have a good sense of humour and I like going out, I'm looking for the right girl for friendship/relationship. Call me when you can. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 418465 □

LEE, 50, seeking an Asian female for discreet fun and maybe more. Dudley area. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 419401 □

ANDREW 53, widower, honest, genuine, caring, tactile. GSOH. Kidderminster based, hoping to love again with a decent loving lady. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 417562

MARK 40, 5ft 9ins, brown hair/eyes, attractive, good looking, OHAC/business, likes walks, day trips, cinema, seeks similar female. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 448329 □

TRACY, slim attractive cheerful blonde, enjoys aromatherapy/massage, looking for male who appreciates a feminine, sensual lady. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 417787 □

TON, a young 59 active attractive male, 5ft 5ins & fit with decent looks & friendly nature, many interests, looking for lady aged 45 to 60 for LTR, love, romance, also like cuddles, kisses and holding hands. Text only to Mailbox No: 4905088

MALE, 63, caring, easygoing, N/S seeks female of similar age for fun times. Cotswood area. Text only to Mailbox No: 4636475

MODERN young at heart lonely lady, 70's, likes trips out, holidays, seeking similar lady for friendship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 410215

Men seeking men

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TALL male 57, seeks older male 60 to 80 for adult fun. Text only to Mailbox no: 4347071

TOM young 59 attractive male, decent looking, fit, slimish, good company & fun loving with many interests, seeking similar male. Text only to Mailbox no: 4926340

BI male would like to meet same, 60 to 80 years. Must be able to accommodate for fun weekends. Text only to Mailbox no: 4852727

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BI curious guy 36, looking for gay or bi male 50 - 80 for adult fun. Text only to Mailbox no: 4930039

LONELY mother seeks female friends for enlivening/enlightening coffee chats, likes countryside animals etc. Text only to Mailbox No: 4860241

ATTRACTIVE full figure bi lady 58 seeks female of similar age for fun times. Cotswood area. Text only to Mailbox No: 4636475

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Evitts heels the need for a winner for Lye Town

Lye Town 1 AFC Wulfrunians 0
A solitary late Kalum Evitts goal gave Lye Town all three Midland Football League Premier points at home to AFC Wulfrunians.

AFC Wulfrunians were unlucky not to come away from a visit to Lye Town with at least a point.

Although Wulfs struggled more than the hosts with the challenging conditions, this was just their third defeat in ten games.

Chances were hard to come by in the first half, Wulfs' John Hill pouncing on a loose ball on the half-hour and seeing his top corner-bound shot clawed away by Jake Bedford.

Bedford excelled again just after the break, tipping away Kyle Minto's effort after the Wulfs man had been played in by Jamie King.

Lye failed to deal with a dangerous corner from Jamie King and Hill pounced on the loose ball, only to see his effort, which looked destined for the top corner, clawed away by Jake Bedford.

Almost immediately after the break, Wulfs had perhaps their best chance of the game.

King played a good ball behind the defence that was latched onto by Kyle Minto, but the striker saw his powerful effort tipped upwards by Bedford.

Ben Jeffons was the first to react for the visitors, but he was off-balance as he leapt for a header and his effort flew wide of the empty net.

Lye's first real opportunity came in the 71st minute, Sam Tye cutting in from the right and beating two players before letting fly.

Three minutes from time. Tom Overfield fired in a low cross and Evitts' back-heal found the corner.

Luck was on our side, says Villa's Garde

NEW Villa boss Remi Garde admitted his side got lucky in a backs-to-the-wall draw against Manchester City but maintained: "It's a good start."

The point ended a run of seven straight defeats for Villa but they remain bottom of the Premier League, five points from safety, after Garde's first game in charge.

They have won just once this season – on the opening day at Bournemouth – but the new manager was pleased with the result, despite admitting Villa rode their luck.

Garde rang the changes in his starting line-up, dropping Jack Grealish and Joleon Lescott to the bench in favour of Carles Gil and skipper Micah Richards.

He said: "We have been a bit lucky because they touched the bar, we didn't create so many chances."

Chess club is shown no Mercia

ON Monday, Stourbridge second team played against Mercia in WDCL Division 2.

The match was in the balance for a long time. Julie Wilson and captain Paul Sharratt agreed early draws, followed by John Foxall and Horwill; so four draws.

Unfortunately reserve Sam Bradley was slowly overcome on board six and Dave Scriven on board one was ahead but missed a neat manoeuvre by his opponent late in the game which allowed a pawn to queen and cost him the game, 2-4 to Mercia.

On Wednesday the BDCL division 1 team travelled to Bushbury.

Jeremy Fallowfield found himself facing Interna-

tional Master Lawrence Cooper, against whom he acquitted himself very well in securing a draw.

Nick Arkell was engaged in a lengthy and tense battle on board 2 throughout the evening, and certainly appeared to have the edge, but his opponent wriggled free to achieve parity at the end.

Greg Dyett, Nick Fallowfield and Paul Sharratt also secured draws. Eric Horwill was under pressure for a long time on board 5 and defended well, but eventually succumbed.

So the final match result was a disappointing 3.5-2.5 to Bushbury.

Meanwhile the third team hosted Wolverhampton in WDCL division 3. Stourbridge fielded a weak-

ened team with Charlie-Ann Arkell as a last minute stand-in.

Wolverhampton may not have been at full strength, but they easily out-graded Stourbridge across the boards, just like most opponents this season in this division.

Just like all their other matches in this division, SCC again managed to win a match against the odds.

They not only won, but won it easily.

Sam Bradley won on board 1, Colin Woodall and Martin Berridge both got draws, but the most pleasing results were two wins for juniors including Charlie-Ann Arkell. This made the final result 4-1 Stourbridge.

Stour can't quite claw game back

South Leicester 27 Stourbridge 26
A lacklustre first half hour left Stour with a 17 point deficit that they couldn't quite claw back, despite the indiscipline of the hosts who were down to 13 men at one stage.

Stour will consider this an opportunity missed as they left with just the two bonus points.

The visitors opted to play the first half against both wind and slope, but found their set piece under pressure right from the start.

With barely three minutes on the clock, front foot ball enabled the home three-quarters to produce some slick handling out of the tackle, centre Gareth Turner bursting through to score in the corner.

A relentless bombardment of high kicks saw Stour pinned in their own 22, hosts winger Calum Gunn collecting a well-struck cross kick to also score out wide.

Stung into action Stour crawled from deep with ball in hand, deft interchanges working flanker Joe Carpenter free to score.

They tried to repeat the trick minutes later but an attempted offload went loose, the ball was hacked downfield and Turner won the footrace to score his second try.

Foray

Worse was to come when a blindside foray worked Gunn free to score the bonus point try and set up a 24-7 lead.

Undeterred Stour continued to run at the hosts, a line break by flanker Nigel Mukarati set up a try under the posts for debutant fullback Ash Elevers who had steamed up on his shoulder as he drew the last defender.

The half ended with the hosts temporarily reduced to 14 men as referee Neil Chivers lost patience with their persistent infringing and brandished a yellow card at flanker Chris Zutic.

The hosts weren't the only ones shooting themselves in the foot though, a marginal forward pass call drawing some mindless backchat bang in front of the Stour posts, outside half Rickie Aley stepping up to extend the lead by three points.

Stour pressed their attacks but were held out until two more South Leicester forwards were sin binned near the hour mark.

Outside half Chris Scott landed the conversion re-



Stour blind side flanker Nigel Mukarati in attack against South Leicester

A penalty was tapped and run and after several phases the ball moved wide for centre Joe Heatley to score with nobody at home in defence.

Stour continued to press but the depleted defences held until a kick to the corner produced a catch & drive finished off by scrum half Toby Handley who reacted first when the ball squirted out of the side of a maul.

Outside half Chris Scott landed the conversion re-

ducing the deficit to just a point with less than five minutes left to play.

Stour tried to run again but winger Nathan Bressington was bundled into touch, the hosts securing a penalty award to wind the clock down with a set of tight phases in the Stour half.

Stour held out and were awarded a penalty on the halfway line with a minute to go, they opted to kick at goal but Scott's long-range effort drifted left.

Villa have the guts to beat the drop, says Garde

BOSS Remi Garde reckons Villa have shown they have the spirit to survive in the Premier League.

Sunday's 0-0 draw with leaders Manchester City, in Garde's first game in charge, ended a run of six straight league defeats even though there were no goals the club was relieved to at least stem the tide of losses.

And though Villa remain rooted to the foot of the table, their new manager reckons he saw enough to suggest they have the stomach for a relegation fight.

The new boss said he happiness in his players which could be a sign that things may be changing.

"I've seen a team that played as a unit and players happy at the end so, hopefully, something's starting to change," said Garde.

"Twelve games have been played and we have five points but the spirit we've shown makes me think we can do it."

The clean sheet against City was Villa's first since the season's opening day and provided some much-needed relief from the dramas which have been enveloping the club recently.

And Garde added: "We have to stay realistic and there's still a lot of work to do but it was important for the players to regain a little bit of confidence."

Fabian Delph has meanwhile thanked City's fans for "having his back" on Sunday.

The former Villa skipper was loudly booted on his first return to Villa Park since controversially quitting for City in the summer.

He said: "The fans gave me great support and had my back."

"It was always going to be interesting coming back."

International friendlies a waste – Pulis

ALBION boss Tony Pulis has vented his anger at the disruption to the Premier League season labelling international friendlies a 'waste of space'.

The Baggies' manager has been critical of the frequency and longevity of the breaks when his players are taken away from the club.

This current international break is the third of the season, but even more frustrating for Pulis is the fact that the majority of his players are off to play friendlies.

"I personally don't think that players should go away for friendly games," he said. "The week that they have now, that should be a coaching week."

"I think Roy [Hodgson] should take them away and there should be no games."

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Tipton Town suffer a high five from SC

Tipton Town 0 Wolverhampton SC 5
TIPTON Town suffered a West Midlands Premier lesson at the hands of Wolverhampton Sporting.

The young home side had given a fine showing in midweek, holding Wolverhampton Casuals to a draw, but had no answer to a visiting attack which has now netted 43 goals in 11 games.

Jon Crawford's fine drive in the third minute, fisted over the top by Sporting keeper Luke Stevens, heralded a continuing improvement for Paul Totney's youngsters which was underlined when Gagandeep Singh crashed a header against the bar.

But Sporting picked up the pace and went ahead on 24 minutes, Danny Westwood powering home a header.

Visibly shaken, the home youngsters became easy prey for their more astute adversaries who bagged a second goal two minutes later when Jon Letford drew keeper Callum Whitehouse and stroked the ball home.

Whitehouse saved well and Westwood clipped the bar with a header before the third goal, forced over the line by Nathan Cain following a corner.

Second-half goals from Letford, chipper the keeper, and Westwood, bursting past two tackles before scoring, rounded it off.

Tipton began the second spell on the attack, Gagandeep Singh taking up a highly promising position but tossing his advantage away by firing wildly high and wide.

Back came Sporting, hitting the bar but then netting the fourth when he chipped Whitehouse with aplomb.

Westwood rounded off the scoring, riding two tackles and tucking the ball away.

Bright start but two goals in two minutes sink Tivs

Tividale 1 Leek Town 2

TWO goals in as many first-half minutes condemned Tividale to an Evo-Stik Division One South defeat.

They began brightly, Mark Danks' chipping keeper Sheridan Martinez but seeing his effort drift agonisingly wide.

Chris Sterling then played in Chris Rabone, whose shot lacked power.

Two minutes later Sterling played the ball into Chris Rabone but his shot lacked any power and it was comfortably gathered by Martinez.

The visitors then took over, Tim Grice heading against the bar and Niall Maguire then scoring from 20 yards. He unleashed a shot from 20 yards, that although Tividale keeper Tom Turner got a hand to it, could not keep it out.

Two minutes later though it was two. Chris Baker won the ball in the middle of the park and sent Dan Cope away down the right flank.

Cope then found Grice with a superb cross and the big frontman made no mistake with his header.

On 77 minutes Sterling halved the deficit following Alex Fletcher's through ball, but there was to be no equaliser.

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Hackett hoping for another special day

BOSS Gary Hackett is hoping Stourbridge can produce "one more special day" after being drawn at home to Eastleigh in the FA Cup second round.

Having already seen off Kidderminster Harriers and Dover Athletic, the Glassboys have been handed National League Premier opponents for the third round running.

Eastleigh are currently seventh in non-league's top flight – and beat League One Crewe in the last round.

But Hackett, who watched his team defeat third-placed Dover 2-1 on Saturday, believes it represents an opportunity for the club to reach

Football

the third round for the first time in their history.

"It is a tough draw, we have again got to beat a team two divisions higher who, like Dover, are doing very well," he said.

"But don't get me wrong, we are at home and we have got an opportunity to get into that third round."

"There are three clubs who are among the lowest-ranked teams in country and we are one of them. We have to keep proving people wrong."

Arrangements for the tie, to take place over

the weekend of December 4-7, will be confirmed within days.

While Eastleigh may not be the glamorous opponents some supporters would have hoped, it still promises to be another big game at the War Memorial Ground.

And Hackett reckons the fans may well play a key part. Several hundred made the long trek to Dover to roar the team on as the Glassboys reached the second round for the third time in five seasons.

And Hackett said: "We are at home, there will be a full house.

I am just hoping for one more special day."

Heathens may return to Monmore

CRADLEY HEATHENS' hopes of survival have been given a massive shot in the arm.

The club has confirmed they are in talks over a return to Wolverhampton's Monmore Green Stadium which would allow their management team of Chris Van Straaten, Gary Patchett and Nigel Pearson to continue.

The future of the Heathens has been in limbo since the trio confirmed they would not be running the club at Perry Barr next season and they were on the lookout for new management.

However, they have now entered "constructive dialogue" with stadium owners Ladbrokes in an attempt to secure a return to the venue they utilised as their temporary home until a year ago.

A club statement said: "Whilst these talks continue, no further discussions will take place regarding the sale of the club as the management trio would be willing to continue at Monmore Green with the help and support of the Heathens Supporters Trust, Ollie Ommer Children's Club and the loyal group of supporters."

"We would like to thank our fans, riders and sponsors for their patience and hope we can bring some positive news in the near future." The news comes as a major boost to supporters of the former Dudley Wood outfit, who have endured a turbulent time since losing the use of Monmore Green last year.

Despite securing the use of Perry Barr to remain on track in 2015, they have experienced a difficult season following the switch.

However, director Pearson is encouraged by the possibility of a return to Monmore Green – and insists they will do all they can to keep the club on track.

Smith's link with Bees is dismissed

REPORTS linking Walsall boss Dean Smith with a move to Brentford have been dismissed as "pure speculation".

Smith has been linked with the Bees hot-seat along with Gillingham manager Justin Edinburgh.

But it is understood there has been no approach with Saddlers officials saying they do not comment on "pure speculation". Smith has been linked with a number of clubs in the Championship following a spate of sackings.

Yet a move to Brentford seems far-fetched after Lee Carsley was handed the job until the end of this season.

Since his appointment, Carsley has won four of his eight games in charge.



Dover Athletic goalkeeper Mitch Walker collides with Karl Hawley for a penalty. Photo by Will Kilpatrick.

threatened an equaliser.

Dover: Walker, Magri, Orlu, Grimes, Raggett, Thomas, Modeste (Ofori-Acheampong 78), Parkinson, Deverdics (Ajala 65), Miller (Rafferty 68), Payne.

Subs not used: Kinnear, Murphy, Diallo, Sterling.

Stourbridge: Solly, Green, Scarr, Pierpoint, Smike, Matt Dodd, Tonks, Broadhurst, Lait, Hawley, Richards.

Subs not used: Penny, McPike, Wright, Billingham, Price, Knight, Harris.

Referee: Richard Martin (Somerset).

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